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Kevin Shelley
Juan Vargas

**TRANSCRIPT OF
PUBLIC HEARING ON REDISTRICTING
INDENTIFICATION OF COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST
JUNE 1, 2001**

**SEASIDE CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - SECOND FLOOR
440 HARCOURT AVENUE
SEASIDE, CALIFORNIA 93955**

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ELECTIONS, REAPPORTIONMENT AND
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE

TRANSCRIPT OF
PUBLIC HEARING ON REDISTRICTING
IDENTIFICATION OF COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

JUNE 1, 2001

Seaside City Hall
City Council Chambers - Second Floor
440 Harcourt Avenue
Seaside, California 93955

REPORTED BY: JAN LIGUORI HERNANDEZ, CSR 6703 01-107161

1 June 1, 2001 P R O C E E D I N G S 11:05 a.m.

2 --oOo--

3 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Good morning, ladies and
4 gentlemen. Thank you for attending this hearing of the
5 Assembly Committee on Elections, Reapportionment and
6 Constitutional Amendments. And by the way, I'll start
7 off by slowing down, as I will encourage others to do,
8 because we have a court reporter who has to keep up with
9 whatever we say, and with no air conditioning in the
10 building, if her fingers catch fire, you know, it's a
11 heat problem, so we'll try and keep it a little slower.

12 The Committee is actually misnamed, I'll tell
13 you this right off the bat so you know that this is an
14 area of -- the whole subject of redistricting is one
15 that has a lot of misunderstandings and misinformation
16 about it, and the misinformation is wide and deep and it
17 includes even the name of our committee.

18 We do redistricting. Reapportionment is the
19 process in which after the census the decision is made
20 on how many Congressional seats are allocated to each
21 state. We don't do that, so our committee is actually
22 misnamed, it should be redistricting rather than
23 reapportionment in the title.

24 So, I tell you that to begin with, don't be too
25 concerned if you make a mistake in your own remarks,

1 misspeak or something, don't feel embarrassed, our
2 committee name is misnamed.

3 The Assembly is committed to conducting fair
4 and open redistricting processes in which members of the
5 public are able to have both a voice and an effective
6 role. This is the fourth in a series of hearings we're
7 holding in various locations throughout the state for
8 the purpose of gathering public input into the
9 redistricting process.

10 And I might by the way for our court reporter,
11 Ms. Hernandez, we'll give you a copy of this statement,
12 I'll tell you when I'm through with this part.

13 As you know, we were all counted by the Census
14 Bureau, we are every ten years. Redistricting is the
15 process by which the lines for Assembly, Senate,
16 Congressional and Board of Equalization seats, or
17 districts rather are changed every ten years after the
18 decennial census.

19 The 2000 census occurred in April 2000, and we
20 received the detailed results of that census at the end
21 of March of this year. The census shows us both that
22 California has experienced an overall increase in
23 population and that our population has shifted.

24 According to the 2000 census, California has a
25 population of 33,871,648. But people also moved around

1 the state, and it's important to find out where people
2 are because that determines where district lines should
3 be drawn.

4 The most basic principle that decides our
5 redistricting is the requirement of one person, one
6 vote. What this means is in order to ensure that each
7 individual's vote carries the same weight, all the
8 Assembly districts must have the same population;
9 likewise for the Senate districts, Congressional
10 districts and the Board of Equalization.

11 A typical Assembly district for example based
12 upon the 1990's redistricting had a population of
13 372,000. After the 2000 census because of the increase
14 in California's population the ideal population for an
15 Assembly district is 423,396. For Senate districts the
16 ideal population is 846,791, and because of our increase
17 in population, California will have one more seat in
18 Congress this decade for a total of 53 Congressional
19 seats; the population for a Congressional seat based on
20 the 2000 census should be 639,088.

21 These changes in population combined with the
22 movement of people from place to place within California
23 mean that we have to redraw the lines for the Assembly,
24 Senate, Congress and Board of Equalization to make the
25 population in each set of districts equal. For

1 Congress, we must redraw lines to create a new seat and
2 to equalize the population of Congressional districts.

3 We have on display maps of the existing
4 districts to give us a sense of where the lines are
5 currently as we undertake the process of redistricting.
6 As we do that, there are certain requirements and
7 guidelines from the United States Constitution, the
8 Federal Voting Rights Act and the California
9 Constitution, as well as traditional redistricting
10 principles that we pay attention to.

11 One of the very important factors is what is
12 called communities of interest. What we try to do when
13 we draw lines is to respect the integrity of communities
14 of interest. The concept of communities of interest
15 embraces the many different kinds of ties that bind
16 communities together. They may be geographical, such as
17 recognizing that rivers and mountains tend to unite
18 communities and to separate people. We also try to
19 avoid splitting political entities such as cities and
20 counties between different districts.

21 Communities of interest can also include
22 factors such as socioeconomic status, the rural or urban
23 character of an area, transportation and media
24 infrastructures, institutions such as schools and
25 churches, community organizations, shared histories,

1 political issues, business and trade, and I could go on.
2 As you see, the list is quite extensive, and we look to
3 you to help us identify the relevant communities of
4 interest within this region.

5 Additionally, of course we will attend to the
6 Voting Rights Act and its requirements that we not
7 dilute the voting power of minority, racial, ethnic or
8 language communities.

9 Our main purpose today is to receive testimony
10 regarding communities of interest in this part of the
11 state. If people wish to offer testimony on other
12 matters related to redistricting, we will attempt to
13 accommodate that.

14 I would also like to take this opportunity to
15 let you know of other ways by which you can receive
16 information regarding the redistricting process, and if
17 you wish, provide additional information pertinent to
18 redistricting to the Committee.

19 We have a Web site that contains information
20 regarding redistricting and the redistricting process.
21 Notice of all our hearings will also appear on that Web
22 site. The Web site address is www.assembly.ca.gov --
23 excuse me, let me start that all over again,
24 www.assembly.ca.gov/erca, that's the Elections,
25 Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments, ERCA,

1 E-R-C-A.

2 An Assembly redistricting task force office has
3 been set up to which you may submit written comments,
4 suggestions and recommendations. This office is located
5 at 1020 N Street, Room 357, Sacramento, California
6 95814. If you testify today or if you submit a request
7 to the redistricting task force office, they will see
8 that you receive notice of all Committee hearings.

9 At our Web site and available at this hearing
10 in hard copy is a document entitled Redistricting Plans
11 Submitted by Members of the Public. I recommend that
12 you review this document which sets out various
13 procedures and suggestions to facilitate your submission
14 of redistricting proposals, recommendations and comments
15 to the Committee.

16 If you have an actual redistricting plan that
17 you wish for consideration, the Committee Web site
18 connects you to a specialized Web site which explains
19 that particular process and through which you can submit
20 your plan electronically. Almost done with this long
21 written document.

22 As I mentioned, this is just one of a series of
23 redistricting hearings that the Assembly Committee on
24 Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments
25 is holding around the state. Additionally, later in the

1 process after proposed plans have been submitted to the
2 legislature, we plan to hold one or two -- we plan to
3 hold two or more days of hearings in Sacramento. These
4 hearings will be linked by satellite to locations around
5 the state to allow interactive hearings so they will
6 function as multiple additional hearings throughout the
7 state.

8 We thank you for your participation today and
9 hope that you will continue to participate as the
10 redistricting process moves along.

11 Okay. I just also would note that there is
12 additional information outside the door as you may have
13 noticed as you entered, printed copies of many of the
14 documents that I've referred to.

15 Before we take testimony, I would like to
16 introduce you to our committee members and other members
17 of the legislature, and we are fortunate today to have
18 with us, I'm going to -- well, let me start with one of
19 our local Assembly members Simon Salinas. And, Simon,
20 if you wanted to make any comments.

21 MR. SALINAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me
22 just thank everybody for taking time this Friday to come
23 and provide the testimony community input that will be
24 compiled. And, Mr. Chair, thank you for the work you're
25 doing throughout the state and the committee members,

1 Mr. Leonard and others that have participated throughout
2 the state to make sure that groups and individuals have
3 the opportunity to come in and present their testimony,
4 obviously under the criteria that you laid out for
5 everybody.

6 So, welcome to some of the folks that I work
7 here locally, thank you for being here, Supervisor
8 Armenta from Monterey County, and former Mayor Rios, Ana
9 Ventura, Councilwoman, Council members, and all of you
10 that are here to give us some input on a very important
11 process that we know your communities are interested in
12 in participating.

13 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much. And
14 immediately next to him is the Chief of Staff for the
15 Committee, Mr. Willie Guerrero; and next, Assembly
16 Member Fred Keeley.

17 MR. KEELEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
18 Mr. Salinas, Mr. Leonard, good morning, ladies and
19 gentlemen. And Mr. Chairman and Mr. Leonard in
20 particular welcome to the 27th Assembly District, we're
21 very pleased that you've chosen this as one of the sites
22 that you're going to visit in holding hearings
23 throughout the state of California on this very
24 important issue.

25 A couple of introductory thoughts and comments,

1 and there is it seems to me in terms of protecting the
2 integrity of the democracy of perhaps no more important
3 single legislative action that we will take every ten
4 years than to draw the district lines for the Assembly
5 and the Senate, as well as for Congress and the Board of
6 Equalization.

7 It is the way that we do in fact ensure that
8 every man and woman in the state of California who are
9 eligible to vote are able to participate fully in the
10 democracy because the lines have been drawn in such a
11 way that permits their individual voices to be heard.

12 In that regard, I do believe that the lines
13 that were drawn for the districts at least in this area
14 of the Central Coast that were drawn some years ago
15 actually do quite well represent the wide variety of
16 ways that you can define communities of interest that
17 the Chair indicated earlier.

18 I think especially with regard to the 27th and
19 28th Assembly Districts, there is some very sound logic
20 to the way those districts were drawn, and the districts
21 that are nested together in the Senate district provide
22 I think a very logical continuity as well as a fair
23 characterization representation of communities of
24 interest.

25 And I think that as we go forward with this

1 process, we should recognize how well those lines were
2 drawn at that time, and understanding that we will need
3 to make accommodation for growth in population in some
4 areas and not so much in others and inevitably the lines
5 will have to change somewhat, I do think that we can
6 look at those existing lines and see that they were very
7 thoughtfully drawn in their original format.

8 So, Mr. Chairman, again thank you so much for
9 being here, and colleagues and ladies and gentlemen.

10 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
11 Speaker Pro Tem Keeley. And next one of the members of
12 the Committee and one of the senior members of the
13 legislature, Assembly Member Bill Leonard.

14 MR. LEONARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, thank
15 you for the welcome, I appreciate being in your
16 neighborhood.

17 Chairman Longville has laid out why we're here
18 and I wanted to underscore that very point. We already
19 have the information from the Census Bureau about where
20 people live, so for purposes of one person, one vote
21 lines we know that. We already know where City and
22 County lines are, so in terms of political boundaries,
23 we know that. We already know where mountain ranges
24 are; absent the next earthquake, we already know where
25 geological boundaries are.

1 What we really do not know as well and the
2 purpose of why I'm here to listen to anyone who wishes
3 to speak today is communities of interest. That is an
4 equal and a very important criteria in our redistricting
5 programming, but it's the one that's the least able to
6 be determined from demographic or other information.

7 Absent input from the public as to what
8 community you are a part of, what community you want to
9 keep together, what community of interest is important
10 in terms of the legislative district, to be in one
11 district or to be fairly divided between a number of
12 districts, that's the real and perhaps the most
13 subjective part of the process here, until we get into
14 the more political and partisan portions of it, but
15 that's the one that I think most of us in this committee
16 have the most interest and concern about.

17 And one point, Mr. Keeley, I'm glad to hear you
18 say that about the plan that was drawn last time. It
19 was drawn by the Supreme Court, and it was very
20 interesting that Chairman Longville and I discovered
21 that it was -- I discovered, I won't credit you, you
22 probably already knew, the Supreme Court put forward the
23 plan ten years ago with no public hearings, they simply
24 ruled and announced it. We're committed to having
25 public hearings after a plan is produced.

1 There are some communities of interest that
2 were divided by the Supreme Court, I think perhaps
3 inadvertently because they didn't know because they
4 didn't undertake the kind of hearings that we're doing.
5 So, if there's any improvement on the Supreme Court that
6 we might possibly do, it's the input that we receive
7 from these hearings, and again our dedication to acting
8 upon that.

9 So, thank you all for letting me be a part of
10 it.

11 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: And also at the end of the
12 desk is Mr. Doug Yoakam, who is the Republican
13 Consultant for the Committee.

14 And let me mention a couple quick housekeeping
15 things; first I encourage everybody to take your coats
16 off, be comfortable, you know, it's going to get warmer
17 in here the longer we have this many people in here, so
18 I encourage informality; and in fact if I were just
19 slightly less formal, I'd take my tie off. If it gets
20 really warm, I'll take my tie off myself, and anybody
21 else is welcome to.

22 Also, is there anybody in the room who does not
23 have a cell phone and wants one because here's what I'm
24 going to do. Just as kind of a little fun thing to give
25 you extra, you know, excitement for having come here

1 today, an extra benefit, we're going to have a cell
2 phone giveaway. If you'd like a cell phone, you can
3 fight for it, and if you want to give away a cell phone,
4 all you have to do is leave it turned on, okay, just
5 leave it turned on in here, and when your cell phone
6 rings that will be the signal to anybody who wants a
7 cell phone that person is donating a cell phone, okay,
8 so it's a lot of fun, we'll do that.

9 And with that I'm going to ask if we have any
10 other Assembly members who had arrived, I don't think we
11 did. Did we have any federal officials that had
12 arrived, and I'm not aware of any but I just want to
13 make sure; anybody from Congressional districts in the
14 area that had shown up? Okay, we don't have any.

15 I have one statement before we begin our formal
16 testimony, one statement from Assembly Member Elaine
17 Alquist which she had asked be read into the record.
18 Now I'm going to violate my keep it slow so we don't set
19 the fingers afire on the court reporter rule, I'm going
20 to read this more quickly because she's going to have a
21 copy of it, okay.

22 "Dear Mr. Longville, I'm in strong support of a
23 redistricting plan that will preserve the community of
24 interest of Santa Clara County, the Silicon Valley, and
25 two of the primary cities in the current 22nd Assembly

1 District and the current 13th Senate District.

2 "These two cities are Mountain View and
3 Sunnyvale; they're wholly within the Santa Clara County
4 and have within their city boundaries the shared
5 territory of NASA-Ames and Moffett Field. These federal
6 facilities are the focal point of new and existing
7 research and are educational centers that serve the
8 local communities and the broader Silicon Valley.

9 "Mountain View is one of the major cities in
10 Santa Clara County. It is vital that Mountain View and
11 Sunnyvale, which is the second largest city in the
12 county, be included in the Senate district that
13 represents the citizens of Santa Clara County and that
14 is completely within the boundaries of Santa Clara
15 County.

16 "Mountain View and Sunnyvale have been combined
17 traditionally for their State Senate and Assembly
18 representation. When the 1990 redistricting was
19 completed, small parts of both Sunnyvale and Mountain
20 View were not included in the 22nd Assembly District and
21 in the 13th Senate District; this has caused confusion
22 and all parts of both cities should be restored to the
23 same legislative districts.

24 "Mountain View and Sunnyvale face many of the
25 same issues of affordable housing, educational services,

1 transportation, senior services and economic
2 opportunities. By being included in the same Assembly
3 and Senate districts, fair and effective representation
4 would be enhanced for the citizens of Santa Clara
5 County.

6 "I also suggest that all of the city of
7 Cupertino be included in the 13th Senate District and
8 the 22nd Assembly District because 85 percent of the
9 Cupertino Union School District service area is already
10 included as part of these two legislative districts and
11 incorporates parts of Santa Clara, Sunnyvale and San
12 Jose.

13 "Thank you for your attention to this matter.
14 Best regards, Elaine Alquist."

15 So, we put that into the record. And I would
16 remind members seated here at the dias that these
17 microphones are both always on and highly sensitive, so
18 if you don't want to talk in the microphone, I'd urge
19 you to push the microphone far away. I mention this
20 because most of us are used to being in rooms where you
21 can mute the microphone for a moment where they're not
22 quite as sensitive as this. Sometimes a member will
23 come up and explain the reason they're leaving the dias
24 for a moment and, you know, you may not want to do that
25 over the microphone.

1 So, in any event, at this time the first
2 testimony scheduled is from various representatives of
3 the William C. Velasquez Institute and the Mexican
4 American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, MALDEF, and
5 I have I believe nine -- well, eight or more people, and
6 I'm going to ask is Mr. Fernando Armenta, a member of
7 the Monterey County Board of Supervisors present?

8 Mr. Armenta, we -- I believe did you want to do
9 it as a panel or one at a time?

10 MR. ARMENTA: One at a time.

11 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: One at a time, okay, we
12 welcome you and thank you. The microphone is yours,
13 sir.

14 MR. ARMENTA: Good morning, buenos dias. I
15 have run through my presentation real quickly, and it's
16 in writing, some of it, a lot of it is historical about
17 myself, my involvement in redistricting, and also
18 working elections for the last 20 years in the Salinas
19 Valley, so I want to present this through the Chair for
20 each member of the Committee, each member of the
21 Assembly staff.

22 Good morning, my name is Fernando Armenta, a
23 County Supervisor representing District 1. Honorable
24 Chair and distinguished members of the Committee and
25 also distinguished members of the Assembly, Simon

1 Salinas and Assembly Member Fred Keeley.

2 I've been representing District 1 since January
3 9th, the year 2000. I got sworn in this year, served on
4 the Salinas City Council for nine and a half years, and
5 also was Mayor Pro Tem for four years, also current
6 Vice-Chair of the Monterey Salinas Transit Agency.

7 I'm also current member of Salinas Valley Solid
8 Waste Authority, I'm a past member and current member of
9 the Salinas LULAC Chapter 2055, and I've been a member
10 for the last 25 years. In 1980 I became a founding
11 member of the Alisal Betterment Committee which was
12 responsible for creating strong Latino political
13 empowerment districts in elections; responsible for
14 electing the first Latino to the Salinas City Council,
15 the Honorable Simon Salinas, now a member of the
16 California Assembly. I apologize for getting too fast,
17 I'll slow down.

18 I've been a voting, a Federal Voting Rights law
19 plaintiff against the City of Salinas in 1987, case was
20 named Armenta versus the City of Salinas. I was a
21 member of the organizing coalition to push for district
22 elections for Hartnell College, Monterey County Board of
23 Supervisors, and Monterey County Municipal Court Judges.

24 I was born and raised in Salinas which
25 comprises 38 percent of the county population. I've

1 been a resident of East Salinas since 1987. I've walked
2 precincts registering and getting the vote out since
3 1980.

4 My organizational affiliations is the
5 California League of Cities, a member of the Latino
6 Caucus Board of Directors; National League of Cities,
7 member of the Latino Caucus Board of Directors for eight
8 years; National Association of Social Workers; and also
9 the National Association of Latino Elected Officials.

10 My redistricting experience, as I mentioned
11 earlier I've been a plaintiff in a Voting Rights law
12 case against the City of Salinas in 1987 represented by
13 the honorable attorney Juaquin Avila; since 1987
14 directly involved in Raza Redistricting Coalition that
15 resulted in district elections again, all the other
16 three or four jurisdictions.

17 My consideration to the Chair and members of
18 the Committee that I request and urge the California
19 legislature to support the purpose and goal, the intent
20 of the Voting Rights Act under Section 5, that that be
21 protected and honored not only for Latinos but many
22 communities of interest that are here today. The Latino
23 community must have a redistricting plan that gives us a
24 viable chance to elect a preferred candidate of choice.

25 And before I conclude is just personally

1 speaking is why district elections, why do we have
2 those, what is the benefit to our communities? And I
3 can tell you of several of, many which I will mention
4 real quickly, local positive results of district
5 elections, what has it resulted, how it resulted in
6 improving communities. And not a lot of us elected
7 officials and community leaders and members have been
8 involved in that process.

9 We've seen more effective representation for
10 underserved groups in geographic communities. We've
11 seen more affordable housing and access to health care;
12 that has become a progressive reality in the last 10 to
13 15 years in Monterey County.

14 Neighborhood Service Centers and Healthy Start
15 programs, affordable housing units, new development
16 dedicated for parks, school and fire stations, soccer
17 fields, safe havens for our youth, local public
18 transportation needs are addressed, a diverse competent
19 work force.

20 And in conclusion, please make sure that
21 communities of interest are kept intact. Please make
22 sure -- I should have stated that strongly -- guarantee
23 that the Latino voting strength is not diluted. Because
24 of good common sense district maps and plans, all of us
25 are able to have a reasonable fair share to elect a

1 competent and very diverse elected official in the past
2 and currently now.

3 And I want to thank you for this opportunity,
4 and I'm going to stick around till the end of the
5 hearing and either on a formal basis or informal basis
6 I'm here to just give you any further feedback, answer
7 any questions.

8 One of the things I forgot to mention, that I
9 was on standby as an expert witness in the Federal
10 Voting Rights law case, and I apologize, it was either
11 the Santa Maria or Oxnard case, so with that in mind I
12 want to thank each one of you for giving me the
13 opportunity of this committee to address you here today.
14 Thanks.

15 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
16 Supervisor. We appreciate it, and I actually appreciate
17 you made a slight change in your, from your written text
18 when you said thanks for the opportunity. I notice in
19 your written text that it said, "Thank you for giving us
20 the privilege to address each of you today," and as you
21 know it's actually a right, not a privilege.

22 It's not something that is a privilege at all,
23 it's a basic right in this society. And thank you for
24 exercising it and for coming here and sharing your
25 information today. We appreciate it.

1 Our next witness -- this is a pleasure by the
2 way, ladies and gentlemen, to be here. I have many
3 friends in this area and I had had some dealings with
4 your former Mayor Jordan, and I see that our next
5 speaker is another dear old friend and former Mayor
6 Oscar Rios, we welcome you.

7 MR. RIOS: Buenos dias. (Untranscribed Spanish
8 comments).

9 My name is Oscar Rios, I thank you, Mr. Chair,
10 welcome. Also I'm glad to be here with my
11 representations, Mr. Keeley and Mr. Salinas. For a long
12 time we only had one representative, and now I'm glad we
13 have two representatives in our area. I'm very glad
14 that this is taking place here.

15 Again my name is Oscar Rios. I was the first
16 Latino elected to the City Council in 1989 after the
17 redistricting of the result of the Gomez versus the City
18 of Watsonville lawsuit. I was also the mayor elected by
19 the council for four years.

20 I also have been involved in many County and
21 committees representing the City of Watsonville. I have
22 been very active with the Latino Caucus of the League of
23 Cities, I have been the Chair and I was the Chair four
24 terms, and I have also been involved in many
25 redistricting conferences to understand more of the

1 process that they were going through.

2 I live within the city of Watsonville for the
3 last 16 years, and I have worked for local nonprofits
4 serving the needs of farming and cannery workers, and
5 most recently with a Latino based organization
6 addressing substance abuse and domestic violence.

7 I urge you to enforce Section 5 of the Voting
8 Rights Act by keeping Watsonville intact within the 28th
9 Assembly District. Section 5 is an integral part of
10 ensuring fairness for the Latino community.

11 In the discussion of moving the city of
12 Watsonville out of the 28th District, it will be taking
13 away the civil rights that people die for. In
14 Watsonville we have 77 percent of the population being
15 Latinos. We have a Latino Assembly person representing
16 us.

17 This is an historic making event that has
18 really, really rejuvenated a lot of Latino voters in the
19 city of Watsonville. I urge you not to take away the
20 new hope and sense of pride in the wake of the
21 elections, especially of our representative Simon
22 Salinas.

23 I have direct experience in issues of
24 Watsonville, and it's clear that there is a community of
25 interest within the 28th District in issues of

1 affordable housing, water issues related to agriculture
2 and also flooding, educational issues, transportation.

3 Lastly, let's just look a little bit of the
4 numbers in the 27th and the 28th District. The 27th
5 District has 18 percent of Latinos, the 28th has 58.8
6 percent, and in Watsonville we make 77 percent. Moving
7 the city of Watsonville to the 27th would be a clear
8 violation of Section 5 because it will dilute the Latino
9 voting strength and forge our community.

10 Lastly, we feel very proud that Representative
11 Fred Keeley has been a very outspoken and has
12 represented us because in the last six years we didn't
13 have a representation. We're very glad that now we do
14 have Mr. Simon Salinas and that we also have Mr. Fred
15 Keeley, but we also see the combination and similarities
16 that we have with the 28th District.

17 We really want you to keep that in mind and
18 keep our vitality of energy of people coming and
19 participating in the process of elections. I want to
20 thank you very much again for giving us the opportunity
21 to be here. Muchos gracias.

22 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much, we
23 greatly appreciate it, Mr. Rios. And let me just note
24 for the record that the comments that you made in
25 Spanish were all welcoming and appreciative comments and

1 nothing substantive. I just note that for the record
2 (untranscribed Spanish comments), so our court reporter
3 needs to make sure that's noted. I just was noting that
4 you don't speak Spanish.

5 Thank you. Our next guest is from La Raza
6 Lawyers of Santa Cruz County, Ana Ventura Phares, did I
7 pronounce your name correctly?

8 MS. PHARES: More or less.

9 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: More or less, okay. What
10 I have is the last name spelling P-h-a-r-e-s; is that
11 correct?

12 MS. PHARES: Right.

13 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: How is it pronounced?

14 MS. PHARES: Phares according to my husband, I
15 don't know what it really is.

16 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: All right. According to
17 him, well, I'll take his judgment on it.

18 MS. PHARES: Yes, we'll take his word.

19 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you.

20 MS. PHARES: I'm here as a member of La Raza
21 Lawyers, but I'm also here as a Vice Mayor of
22 Watsonville right now. And I was born in Calexico,
23 which is Imperial Valley, and I was raised in Salinas
24 Valley and I was also raised in Watsonville in the
25 Pajaro Valley.

1 And the reason why I wanted to talk about those
2 three valleys is because my father is a farm worker and
3 that's one of the ways where I feel the community of
4 interest between Salinas Valley and Pajaro Valley is
5 very strong, and Imperial Valley, although that's not
6 connected, but I just wanted to let you know that there
7 is a very large migrant population, migrant farm workers
8 in Salinas and Pajaro Valley.

9 Whenever studies are done about farm workers
10 and farm worker housing and farm worker health issues,
11 it is Monterey County, Salinas Valley, and they always
12 include Pajaro Valley from the Santa Cruz County.

13 I am, also before I was the Vice Mayor of the
14 City of Watsonville, I worked as an attorney for
15 California Rural Legal Assistance in Salinas, and worked
16 on farm worker issues both in Watsonville and mostly in
17 Salinas and throughout Monterey Counties, for me that is
18 a great community of interest.

19 I'm going to be talking mostly about farm
20 worker issues and how not only is Watsonville greatly
21 similar to Salinas in the farm worker issues, but all
22 the other issues that surround farm worker issues,
23 issues of housing, overcrowdedness, health insurance,
24 the lack of health insurance for farm workers,
25 transportation issues, all those issues are a great

1 community -- similar community of interest for the
2 Assembly to consider when they're redrawing their lines.

3 I also want to mention when I lived and worked
4 in Salinas, I also was a plaintiff in the redistricting
5 lawsuit against, I think it was Monterey County for the
6 judges, I'm not sure if it was the judges or the
7 supervisor, and I also had the honor to work with
8 Fernando Armenta at that time when we were on La Raza
9 Lawyers in Salinas as well.

10 And I'm giving you the history because it just
11 shows you how similar Salinas is with Watsonville
12 because they're the same issues that I worked on in
13 Salinas as a LULAC member there, and as a LULAC member
14 in Watsonville it's the exact same issues, it's farm
15 worker issues, it's housing, lack of housing, it's
16 educational levels, it's the high unemployment within
17 farm workers versus the high unemployment also in
18 Salinas.

19 And the other very important thing is that as
20 agriculture itself, Pajaro Valley produces 90 percent of
21 Santa Cruz County's gross agricultural income, and if it
22 was a county -- and if it was a county, it would rank
23 fifth in agriculture production in California.

24 Similarly, the Salinas Valley, which is the
25 center of Monterey County's 2.3 billion agricultural

1 industry, is the top vegetable producing region in the
2 nation, exporting over 500 million pounds of produce
3 annually. So whenever there's also studies about
4 agriculture, it's also the Salinas Valley and it's the
5 Pajaro Valley, so you can see that the similarities in
6 the agricultural world with all these other issues
7 surrounding it has a great community of interest.

8 Also I wanted to mention that in terms of other
9 socioeconomic factors, we are very dissimilar to the
10 district that is next to us, that is where the rest of
11 Santa Cruz County is. If you look at unemployment, our
12 unemployment is 13.6, when the rest of Santa Cruz County
13 and basically the rest of the state of California put
14 together is around six according to these latest figures
15 I have.

16 The income level is very much more similar to
17 Salinas because of the large agricultural, and is very
18 different and much lower than Santa Cruz County and the
19 rest of. The educational attainment between farm
20 workers and their children is a lot lower unfortunately,
21 but it is a lot lower than people that are not farm
22 workers.

23 So, there's lots of -- not only are we similar
24 to Monterey County and the Salinas Valley, but we're
25 also very dissimilar to the rest of Santa Cruz County.

1 Some of the other issues are when I talked
2 about overcrowding and the housing crisis, we all know
3 how skyrocketing our housing costs are and it's even a
4 bigger crisis for farm workers, and that's another issue
5 where I think the State can help us when we are together
6 in the, stay together in the 28th, we could help on
7 those kind of issues, specifically for farm workers and
8 their families.

9 All those issues, there are so many community
10 of interests just surrounding farm workers, again like I
11 said the health, health insurance, lack of housing,
12 education, migrant parents and migrant students; the
13 amount of, for example free lunch programs that are
14 given in Salinas Valley and Pajaro Valley are, you know,
15 just about the same percentages as opposed to Santa Cruz
16 County, so the list could go on and on actually of
17 similar community of interests.

18 So, with that I want to thank you, it's an
19 honor for me to be here, and I also want to thank our
20 neighboring Assembly member who has worked very much
21 with the City of Watsonville, I want to acknowledge you
22 publicly for helping us out in so many ways. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much for
24 taking the time to be here today.

25 Our next witness will be speaking as part of

1 the Velasquez Institute, MALDEF group, but also as I
2 believe representative of the President of the Santa
3 Cruz County Chapter of LULAC, Mr. Eric -- no, I'm sorry,
4 excuse me, Ms. Erica Padilla. I'm reading down here at
5 my notes and not looking up.

6 MS. PADILLA: Well, thank you, I really
7 appreciate this opportunity for, this right I should
8 say.

9 My name is Erica Padilla. I am a native of
10 Watsonville. I was a student of the Pajaro Valley
11 Unified School District who was lucky enough to have the
12 opportunity to further her education on to University of
13 Berkeley, and upon her completion come back to her
14 community and work with the community.

15 I'm here to talk about one particular factor of
16 interest that we have in the 28th District. I'm here to
17 talk about education. And the reason that I feel so
18 strongly about education is due to the fact that in my
19 personal life I can attest that the education that I
20 received along with the education that my parents
21 received as migrant parents was very crucial to my
22 success and the success of my family.

23 Here in the 28th District, both in Salinas and
24 in Watsonville and other similar communities, we have a
25 very strong migrant parent education program. This

1 program enabled my family to learn as newcomers to this
2 country to learn the value of education on their
3 children and upon their own lives.

4 So now thanks to that kind of education my
5 parents have been able to move up the ladder, they have
6 been able to bring us up in an environment where
7 education is in fact included in our daily talk. And I
8 believe that that is definitely an issue that not only
9 the LULAC Council in Watsonville and Santa Cruz County
10 shares, but also in talking to our partner LULAC Council
11 in Salinas, this is a very, very strong interest that we
12 both hold.

13 Also in talking about education, we talk about
14 citizenship programs. My parents were not citizens, my
15 parents understood and became aware of the process of
16 the citizenship process through the connection with the
17 Pajaro Valley Unified School District and the migrant
18 education program. This is also true of other
19 communities within the 28th District.

20 So, please, I ask you today to keep this factor
21 in mind in talking about our future, we have to address
22 education in talking about migrant children, we have to
23 make sure that we keep this in mind when redrawing the
24 lines. And I thank you for this opportunity.

25 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much for

1 taking the time to come here today and share your
2 comments with us.

3 The next member of the group representing the
4 Velasquez Institute and MALDEF, I have Mr. Alejandro
5 Chavez, and I should actually alert for the kind of
6 batter up who's going to be coming up in the, next will
7 be Mr. Daniel Dodge.

8 MR. CHAVEZ: Thank you, Chairman, and thank you
9 for everybody else that's here from the Assembly and the
10 other people that are here this morning.

11 My name is Alejandro Chavez, I live in
12 Watsonville, California. I work for the County of
13 Monterey Board of Supervisors, I'm actually the
14 Administrative Aide for Fernando Armenta; however I've
15 worked for the United Farm Workers as the Central Coast
16 Community Development Coordinator.

17 I was an Interim Executive Director for a
18 nonprofit in Watsonville named Fenix Services which
19 works on substance abuse issues, domestic violence
20 issues; I also was the Youth Program Manager for that
21 organization as well. And previous to that I was a
22 Youth Counselor and a Youth Advocate and Outreach Worker
23 for another nonprofit organization from Santa Cruz
24 County which is Youth Services, Incorporated.

25 I live in Watsonville, California, I have lived

1 there for just about ten years, and I belong to the
2 LULAC Council of Watsonville or Santa Cruz County. I
3 also participate and belong to Fiestas Patrias de
4 Watsonville, the Student Empowerment Project of
5 Watsonville.

6 I'm a former board member of the Pajaro Valley
7 Housing Corporation, which is a nonprofit organization
8 which does affordable housing. I'm also a former Parks
9 and Recreation Commissioner for the City of Watsonville
10 representing District 2 where I currently live; former
11 member of the Latino Strategic Planning Collaborative of
12 Santa Cruz County; former member of Poder Latino En
13 Accion of Santa Cruz County; and former president of
14 South West Voter Education Registration Projects in
15 Watsonville, and in several projects that we've done
16 there in Watsonville.

17 And I'm here today because I want to urge you
18 to make certain that Watsonville continues to be
19 included within the boundaries of the 28th Assembly
20 District. I urge you to enforce the Voting Rights Act,
21 Section 5, and to not divide our community of
22 Watsonville, as is the case now.

23 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Maybe slightly slower
24 might be, if you can.

25 MR. CHAVEZ: Okay. Our commonalities, our

1 community of interest lies in our agricultural based
2 economy and our children, our youth. As a person who
3 has worked with youth for over 12 plus years, I can tell
4 you that we face a crisis in the 28th District.

5 Up and down from Watsonville to King City to
6 Gilroy, our children for the most part come from a farm
7 worker background. Our youth come from parents with
8 very little education, but with a willingness to
9 sacrifice for their children. Our youth face this every
10 day. They face gang issues, drug issues, the lack of
11 opportunities and the lack of formal education, as well
12 as overcrowded conditions.

13 Make certain you allow for the 28th District to
14 battle these issues together on a united front, even
15 though some of these issues are negative, and I think
16 there can be a positive spin where we can learn from one
17 another and work with one another to deal with these
18 issues together.

19 Our strength in staying in the 28th District is
20 to be able to pull together and address these issues.
21 We are very different from -- many of the issues that we
22 face in the 28th are very different from the issues that
23 are faced in the 27th, although many are the same.
24 Please do not split up the 28th. It is crucial when we
25 talk about having Watsonville and its future, and I

1 thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
3 Mr. Chavez, we appreciate your taking the time to be
4 here today.

5 Mr. Daniel Dodge is next. Is Mr. Dodge in the
6 room? Okay, not at the moment, all right.

7 And were there any additional speakers from the
8 Velasquez Institute, MALDEF coalition?

9 All right. If not, then I'm moving on to, I
10 have representing the NAACP, the President of Monterey
11 Peninsula Chapter, Ms. Helen Rucker. And just so the
12 next person can be alerted -- there may be some
13 additional speakers from NAACP?

14 MS. RUCKER: There will be.

15 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Okay, I don't have the
16 names of the others, okay.

17 MS. RUCKER: We have Tony Anderson, the
18 President of the Salinas branch of the NAACP who would
19 like to speak. And I was expecting another speaker,
20 Rick Callender from the San Jose NAACP, but I'm not sure
21 he's going to make it here in the traffic, we all know
22 101.

23 I'm Helen Rucker, I'm President of the Monterey
24 Peninsula branch of the NAACP and I live here in Seaside
25 on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula. And while I'm

1 here, I'd like to welcome those of you who are visitors
2 to our beautiful, award winning City Hall, and I look
3 over here to introduce my mayor and he was left out, he
4 was not introduced, but Jerry Smith was here as well as
5 one of our City Council people were here a minute ago
6 and they were not introduced.

7 Thank you for holding the hearing here in
8 Seaside. I have asked some of your people how people
9 get information about the redistricting process, and I
10 know you want it to be as open as possible. I have been
11 working with the County on the supervisorial district
12 redistricting and been able to attend those meetings,
13 and when I heard about this meeting kind of through the
14 grapevine, and yesterday I went over to the office and
15 here was the letter inviting me to this meeting.

16 So, I don't know how you get on your mailing
17 list, but I want to assure you that the NAACP branches
18 throughout the state of California are very interested
19 in the process, want to work with you, want to help with
20 the process, and if we are included on your mailing list
21 I'm sure that we will be here. I happened to run into
22 Tony Anderson at another meeting this morning and I drug
23 him over here with me.

24 To let you know a little bit about me, first of
25 all I'm very proud of the fact that I was Fred Keeley's

1 Woman of the Year some years back, and we're very proud
2 of the role that Fred has played as our Assembly person
3 for the 27th District.

4 I am a retired educator, currently President of
5 the NAACP Monterey Peninsula branch. I have been a
6 Seaside City Councilwoman for six years, Mayor Pro Tem
7 for four, and now kind of just professional volunteer.

8 During the time that I was on the City Council,
9 I did participate in a lot of League of California
10 Cities conferences on redistricting, helped with the
11 process the other times around, particularly with the
12 school district when we went to districts, and with the
13 4th District setting up the districts when the county
14 went to districts. So, I have some background in this
15 redistricting process. Of course, it's much easier for
16 us at the county level where we can identify communities
17 of interest, and it's much clearer to see.

18 With a larger area like the Assembly, we have
19 pockets of wealth, pockets of poverty, and although I
20 think you know that this area has lost quite a bit of
21 its African-American community, however we can, we still
22 are a vital force in this community, and we have been
23 leaders in this community and other communities in this
24 county and we will continue to do so.

25 In addition to the NAACP, I want you to know we

1 have one of the most powerful coalitions established
2 with civil rights organizations, that whenever I go
3 anywhere in the state I talk to them about the Coalition
4 of Minority Organizations that exist here on the
5 Monterey Peninsula. We have about 15 civil rights
6 organizations who come together to work on common
7 problems just in an effort to try to make living a
8 little bit better for all of us on the Monterey
9 Peninsula. And this organization I've sat in as a
10 member of for the ten years it's been in existence, and
11 I wanted to say that to you.

12 The types of things that we're being encouraged
13 to say to you is that we urge you to enforce the Voting
14 Rights Act, do not divide African-Americans, Asians or
15 Latino communities, otherwise you will dilute our votes.
16 And we would urge you to listen to the people of
17 Watsonville because they have been -- they will be well
18 served by Simon Salinas, and I want to emphasize that to
19 you.

20 We have great partnerships with our LULAC
21 organizations both in Salinas and on the Monterey
22 Peninsula, and by working together we have accomplished
23 much, and I want to make sure that we support our
24 brothers and sisters in Watsonville.

25 We urge you to merge the multiracial category

1 into the smallest race category. For example, when that
2 census came out I could have put down that I was -- I'm
3 mixed, it's very obvious that I'm mixed, but I put down
4 African-American, I'm very proud of my African-American
5 heritage, but some of my fellow African-Americans have
6 been made to feel that they shouldn't be proud of their
7 African-American heritage, so they put down mixed.

8 Well, it's kind of obvious that all of us are
9 mixed, but yet those of us who put mixed down were put
10 in another category, and when I look at the census
11 figures for Monterey County and see 15,000
12 African-Americans left in this county, and half of them
13 are in the prisons of Soledad and Salinas Valley, that
14 doesn't leave us a whole lot. So, we think that we're
15 looking at a serious undercount of African-Americans as
16 well as the delusion that there was something good about
17 denying your African-American heritage in that census
18 count.

19 So, you know, this isn't something I know you
20 guys have anything to do with. I just want it said for
21 the record, that it was almost like political suicide
22 for the African-American community for us to be deluded
23 into believing that putting down mixed race was
24 something that was going to be profitable for our
25 community; just the opposite, it's going to be deadly

1 for our communities, and we're going to miss some
2 federal funding and some other funding because of it.
3 And the cities, some of whom pushed for this type of
4 thing are going to see how deadly it can be to our
5 communities.

6 We're very concerned about the ideal of one
7 person, one vote, and that it is actually realized for
8 not only the African-American community, for all
9 peoples.

10 Respect our communities and communities of
11 interest that you well know as well as I do that
12 everyone who came up here and spoke on behalf of the
13 Latino community, all the problems that the Latino
14 communities are facing, with the exception of
15 deportation, nobody's tried to deport me back to Africa
16 lately, we are -- we suffer, the housing, the health,
17 and all of those things that it has been marvelous for
18 us to be able to go to Fred Keeley and talk about and be
19 listened to.

20 Please allow for the maximum input of
21 African-Americans, Pacific Islanders and Latino
22 communities when you redraw the redistricting lines.
23 And I think that by having a hearing such as this one
24 today that it's close enough to a Latino center that we
25 are listening to people such as the African-Americans

1 and the Latinos.

2 We know that we have lost this African-American
3 population, and we're going to work harder maybe to make
4 sure that our presence is really effective in the area.

5 Other people have mentioned the socioeconomic
6 status of the people here, the income levels, business
7 and commerce patterns and so on. I also would like to
8 mention that we have done in COMO a lot of coalition
9 building with our Latino friends, and we have a lot of
10 similar problems in our community. And I'm sure that
11 when you, when you do this redistricting that you'll
12 take all peoples into consideration.

13 I'd like to thank you again for coming to our
14 beautiful city of Seaside, come back again, thanks
15 again.

16 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much. We
17 appreciate your taking the time to be here, Ms. Rucker.
18 Let me note by the way, automatically, Ms. Rucker, your
19 name will be put on our mailing list. I'm assuming that
20 you filled out something, somebody's giving it to you to
21 fill out right now, all right.

22 Mr. Leonard, yes.

23 MR. LEONARD: Ms. Rucker raised an interesting
24 point that I know in some of the conferences I've been
25 to it's been discussed, but she reminds me, I'm not sure

1 that a public decision has been made on how those that
2 do the redistricting will use the Census Bureau
3 multiracial categories for purposes of Section 5 of the
4 Voting Rights Act, and I think your point is well made.

5 Could I ask through the Chair that the
6 Committee check whether there's any regulations or
7 memorandum from the Department of Justice regarding
8 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act as it reacts to this
9 new census multimixed categorization so that we honor
10 what the federal rules are, if there are any; and if
11 there're not, that we announce as, that as part of our
12 criteria.

13 We left it off the list and I'm not sure why
14 now because, probably because it's so new I guess that
15 none of us have quite figured it out, but we're going to
16 have to make a decision as we deal with the ethnicities
17 and nationalities of our state and this census data that
18 sort of confuses that in one sense, or sheds new light
19 or something, I'm not sure which it is.

20 But, I would ask you to let's find a way to
21 make that decision and make it public so that if there
22 are any members of the public that have concerns about
23 it, that those be made known as we go to map drawing.

24 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
25 Mr. Leonard. And as you were speaking, I noted that

1 both our committee chief of staff and our legal counsel
2 were making notes, which I assume is to follow up on and
3 make sure that we get such memos or other information as
4 we can.

5 I also wanted to note that as Ms. Rucker had
6 raised the question, I want to mention again anyone who
7 wants to be on the mailing list, that monotone statement
8 I read at the beginning included in there a reference to
9 some addresses and Web sites where you can be
10 automatically put on our mailing list.

11 We have additional printed information outside
12 the door which includes those addresses and Web site,
13 that information for you, and we welcome anybody, please
14 give us your name and address and we definitely will
15 send you information.

16 And, Ms. Rucker, I would note that I believe
17 the statewide office of NAACP is I know on our list,
18 I've met with some individuals there.

19 MS. RUCKER: Alice Hoffman.

20 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: And we'll make sure that
21 we have you on the list. Thank you very much.

22 And, sir, if you can go ahead and introduce
23 yourself for the record, and in fact if there's more
24 than one possible way your name can be spelled, if you
25 spell it for the court reporter. Thank you.

1 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. My name is Tony Anderson,
2 there's only one way I like it spelled, T-o-n-y, never
3 with an "i".

4 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Okay. I'm assuming it's
5 an o-n Anderson?

6 MR. ANDERSON: It's an o-n Anderson. And I was
7 laughing when she mentioned the multicultural sort of
8 situations that we're in. I don't know where they'd
9 send me if they told me to go back to my own country
10 anyway. I think it's somewhere near Little Rock,
11 Arkansas, I don't know.

12 But just for the shared thing, I think right
13 here is when we start talking about all the groups,
14 NAACP Salinas branch, I'm currently the president. I
15 also have worked with COMO, the Coalition of Minority
16 Organizations.

17 My current job I work for a federal funded
18 program, a trio program called Talent Search which has
19 me going through 11 different high schools looking at
20 what the high school students need if they want to go on
21 to go to college, and since I work with a lot, a lot of
22 times I find myself working with migrant programs with
23 the various other programs. I am always --

24 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Just a little bit slower.

25 MR. ANDERSON: Was that too fast for you?

1 Actually though she's got quick fingers. All right,
2 well, it's good, as I get nervous I talk faster, luckily
3 I'm not on trial here.

4 What I want to say is the importance of us
5 looking at other things other than just sheer numbers
6 when we start to redistrict, it's important that a lot
7 of the common social and economical situations of the
8 groups or the communities that we're looking at that do
9 align themselves naturally are kept that way so that we
10 can address -- get opportunities for them to find
11 creative and grass roots ways to apply their abilities
12 and their skills to resolve their issues; a lot of times
13 we can get State funds to help us do things.

14 If we're dividing into districts where we don't
15 share any common ground, it's hard for us to have a
16 voice in saying that these things need to be addressed.
17 If we share the city, for example Carmel and Seaside may
18 not see similarities in what they do.

19 We're lucky in Salinas to have excellent
20 representation with Simon Salinas, he's my own personal
21 hero, although he won't give me any money for saying
22 that, and I look forward to us using the knowledge that
23 we have as a community to make our community better, we
24 can't do that if we're divided.

25 So I'm saying please take into consideration

1 those things that are obvious and that are real and that
2 are in this reality, not in next year's, and don't go so
3 politically correct that you overlook some obvious ways
4 or some obvious opportunities for us to go. If we
5 divide our districts too crazily or too easily based on
6 pure numbers, we will lose some of the creativity and
7 some of the voices of our community, so that's what I'd
8 like to say.

9 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
10 Mr. Anderson, for taking the time to be with us today.

11 And next I have listed a member of the Cabrillo
12 Community College Board of Trustees, Mr. John Laird.
13 And, Mr. Laird, let me note so that she can be ready,
14 that the next name I have on my list will be from the
15 City of Watsonville Redistricting Committee, Ms. Shirley
16 Castillo, so with that, Mr. Laird.

17 MR. LAIRD: Great, thank you, Chair Longville,
18 and members of the Assembly and friends. I am John
19 Laird, I'm a resident of the city of Santa Cruz. I am
20 as was listed on the agenda a Trustee at Cabrillo
21 College District.

22 I'm also a former City Council member, served
23 nine years, including two terms as mayor; am a former
24 Congressional assistant, former County Chair of my
25 party, and former Chair of the Regional Council of

1 Governments, AMBAG.

2 And the reason I list all those particular
3 groups is over the course of 30 years I've had the
4 chance to observe very closely a number of times that
5 lines have been drawn, and I want to commend you at the
6 outset for the fact that in most of those processes in
7 the past, there's not been an open process, there's not
8 been a participatory or community based process where
9 people have come and taken testimony like this, and I
10 want to thank you for it.

11 I have one central theme today, and that's that
12 the 27th and the 28th Districts in the Assembly are
13 distinct communities of interest that should not be
14 changed. The 28th I could not speak to better than the
15 speakers that you've heard thus far. They have given
16 the reasons and they have united the community of
17 interest issues that are there.

18 I want to speak to the 27th District, and
19 Assembly Member Leonard said earlier that you kind of
20 need help because of the fact that the demographics and
21 the numbers don't give you a sense of what a community
22 of interest is, and I want to tell you why I think the
23 27th is a very distinct and unique community of interest
24 that needs to remain the same.

25 The first is just our special environment in

1 the Monterey Bay area. All across, whether you're in
2 Santa Cruz County, Monterey County, the issue of open
3 space, open space acquisition exists, it exists in Big
4 Sur with the land trust, it exists in the north coast of
5 Santa Cruz County.

6 There are water shortages and sea water
7 intrusion all around the Monterey Bay area in many
8 different jurisdictions and agencies. The Monterey Bay
9 Sanctuary, the largest federal sanctuary in the United
10 States program, is bounded by the Monterey Bay, and its
11 health is dependent on what all the coastal
12 jurisdictions do on all sides of the Bay; they don't
13 recognize any political differences between Santa Cruz
14 and Monterey County.

15 The number of State parks in this district
16 whether in Santa Cruz or Monterey County is more than
17 almost every other district in the state, and their
18 marine science facilities that really take advantage of
19 the Monterey Bay in Santa Cruz, Moss Landing on the
20 Monterey side that are world renowned and really united
21 as a community of interest.

22 This district also is one of the very few in
23 the state of California that has higher education
24 institutions at every single level. We have a Cal
25 State, a University of California, two community

1 colleges, and they actually relate across the district
2 lines.

3 The community college where I serve on the
4 board is the regional center for a number of programs.
5 If you want to do dental hygiene in the Monterey Bay
6 area, you come to Cabrillo College regardless of where
7 you live. If you're at Cabrillo you have a special
8 entrance ability to Cal State Monterey Bay in Monterey
9 County. If you're at UCSC you might actually be working
10 at facilities they have at Cal State Monterey Bay. So,
11 they're real links in public education across.

12 There's a crisis in the ability of people to
13 afford to live in the Monterey Bay that respects no
14 political boundaries. There was a hearing here that was
15 attended by over 600 people that was put together by the
16 mayors of Monterey County about the fact that people are
17 being priced out of the area.

18 The same thing is happening in Santa Cruz
19 County where in Santa Cruz city the cost of a
20 fixer-upper at the low end is \$400,000 for a home; that
21 means that the people that work in the service industry,
22 the people that really staff our police agencies, our
23 public agencies, that teach in our schools, can no
24 longer afford to live here on the salaries we pay; that
25 is something that is united across all boundaries in the

1 Monterey Bay area.

2 And our economy is unique compared to the
3 surrounding area, the coastal leg, but also visiting
4 service industry, whether it's the Boardwalk or it's the
5 Wharf, whether it's hotels on a Monterey weekend,
6 whether it's people coming for arts festivals in Santa
7 Cruz, dependence on the visitor industry is something
8 that unites the entire Monterey Bay.

9 And Helen made the comment about somebody that
10 might be trapped on 101 and not be here. If you're at
11 the mouth of the Carmel Valley or trying to get out of
12 central Santa Cruz to the mid-County at 5:00, traffic
13 and transportation is an issue across the Monterey Bay
14 area that's very unique.

15 So basically that's my message. You have a
16 good community of interest that exists that is working,
17 that unites issues and people in ways that moving it any
18 different way would really not compete or continue that
19 community of interest, and I really urge you to continue
20 it.

21 And I thank you for the ability to speak today.

22 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much, thank
23 you very much for taking the time to be here and join
24 with us today.

25 Ladies and gentlemen, before we go on, and we

1 will be starting out again with Ms. Shirley Castillo
2 will be the next person up, before we do that I'm going
3 to take a brief break -- and seven to ten minutes will
4 be adequate? -- seven to ten minute break to give our
5 court stenographer's fingers a break here for a minute,
6 and we will reconvene in about seven to ten minutes.
7 Thank you.

8 (Whereupon, a recess was taken)

9 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Ladies and gentlemen, we
10 will begin and our first speaker will be representing
11 the Santa Cruz County Chapter of the League of the
12 United Latin American Citizens, Ms. Shirley Castillo.

13 MS. CASTILLO: Yes, I'm an officer of our local
14 chapter of LULAC. Our local chapter of LULAC is rather
15 unique in that since it covers all of Santa Cruz County,
16 which includes Watsonville, we have two Assembly
17 district representatives, one being Simon Salinas and
18 one being Fred Keeley, so given that it's very important
19 that we have a good working relationship with both
20 Assembly persons, and I regret the fact that neither one
21 of them here is here for my presentation, but neither
22 here nor there.

23 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: If I might just note for
24 you, Ms. Castillo, that the transcripts of these will be
25 provided to all the Committee members.

1 MS. CASTILLO: Yes, I'm aware of that. Of
2 course relationships are also eye contact and personal.

3 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much.

4 MS. CASTILLO: Okay. Given the fact that we
5 encompass both -- our chapter encompass both the 28th
6 and the 27th, there was a lot of dialogue within our
7 chapter with regards to redistricting.

8 Historically as you well know as mentioned
9 above, we were in the 27th District and after the last
10 redistricting in 1990 we were, the city of Watsonville
11 was put in the 28th. Given the 2000 census, the city of
12 Watsonville Latino population has increased.

13 As mentioned before by former Mayor Oscar Rios,
14 we have a Latino population of close to 75, 77 percent,
15 given whatever statistics are out there, but it's a
16 substantial amount. We do face like most Latino
17 communities, especially those who are agricultural
18 based, issues of low-income housing, affordable housing,
19 education.

20 One of the major issues in our community is our
21 new high school that has come into conflict with issues
22 of environmental issues and where the site of our local
23 high school is.

24 Another critical issue that we share in
25 Watsonville is the issue of health care and affordable

1 health care not only to the farm worker community, but
2 for low income -- our low-income community that are
3 noninsured which is a considerable high percentage.

4 Given all of that information, we, our local
5 chapter, did our own analysis to see where our community
6 interest lies between both Assembly districts using the
7 Section 2 criteria which is do we fit into a large
8 geographical concentration, what is our political
9 cohesiveness, and of course the totality of our
10 circumstances, which of course in doing that analysis it
11 became quite obvious that our community of interest is
12 still with the 28th District.

13 So, I'm here not only to say that our local
14 chapter is supporting that we remain in the 28th
15 District, but we also support with regards to Section 5
16 which impacts us while we're in the 28th District, that
17 that consideration with the federal government as its
18 being reevaluated come forward through the Assembly and
19 the legislature of California.

20 Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much for
22 taking the time to be here, Ms. Castillo.

23 And next I believe we have the Political
24 Science professor at Cabrillo Community College, Juan
25 Oliverez. Is Professor Juan Oliverez here? Okay,

1 apparently he had to leave.

2 I have various people who had requested to
3 testify this morning, we're taking them in the order
4 that they had signed in. Next I have -- and I'll alert
5 you both to who's coming up immediately and I'll give
6 you two deep backup so that people can kind of be
7 prepared here.

8 First will be Reverend Sal Alvarez, followed by
9 Rebecca Garcia, followed by Peter Szego, I'm hoping I'm
10 pronouncing these names correctly.

11 Reverend Saul Alvarez, you have the microphone,
12 sir.

13 REVEREND ALVAREZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
14 name is Saul Alvarez, and I'm a statewide chaplain for
15 California LULAC. And Mickie Luna, the State Director,
16 sends her warmest regards to you and thanks you for
17 coming to San Bernardino for our statewide executive
18 board meeting and giving us some background on the task
19 and charge of this committee. So we're pleased to be
20 here today. I know that Mickie Luna will be testifying
21 in Sacramento at a later time.

22 I'm also here as a member of the Silicon Valley
23 LULAC chapter and which is affiliated with La Raza Round
24 Table which is a coalition of Mexican-American
25 organizations of Santa Clara County, and it numbers over

1 31 members.

2 In addition, I am the chair of the 28th
3 Assembly District for the Democratic Party, and we're
4 very happy that we finally have had a Mexican-American
5 democrat representing this area after many, many years
6 of disenfranchisement and neglect with regard to an
7 array of issues that have existed in this particular
8 part of the world.

9 We're very well aware that the 28th Assembly
10 District is the district that represents the lettuce
11 capital of the world, it represents the strawberry
12 capital of the world, it's the major base for
13 agribusiness, and it has real historical significance
14 with regard to the struggle of the United Farm Workers
15 and the work that Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta have
16 done in organizing farm workers in the greater Salinas
17 Valley area and Watsonville area.

18 I most recently was involved in the strawberry
19 struggle and went to jail with Martin Sheen and a number
20 of other clergy to point out the need for redress. And
21 I make that point because California LULAC and certainly
22 La Raza Round Table of Santa Clara County and the
23 Democratic Central Committee are very well aware that
24 there's a need to peel off approximately 66,000 votes in
25 this particular assembly district more or less, we're

1 well aware of that.

2 And so what we want to say today is that we're
3 very concerned that this particular 28th District not be
4 turned into a rural democratic seat; and we say that
5 because having been the legislative representative for
6 the United Farm Workers in Sacramento during the
7 seventies and eighties and in Washington D.C. during the
8 eighties, we're very well aware of the extreme
9 difficulty there is for Assembly members to actually
10 promote the farm worker agenda in the midst of the
11 agribusiness industry.

12 The most recent example of that is the failure
13 of the Mexican-American legislative representatives of
14 the Valley to even support the labor contractor
15 provisions that have been long needed, and so we're
16 very, very cognizant of the fact that given the numbers
17 of Hispanics in the 28th Assembly District that it
18 wouldn't be hard to just ghettoize this particular
19 Assembly district and convert it into -- and convert
20 Simon and the future Assembly district into a rural
21 democratic district, and that's a very serious concern.

22 We're very well aware of the fact that what
23 Mr. Salinas represents right now includes the Evergreen
24 Valley area and the Coyote Valley area, and I point
25 those areas out because they're, Evergreen is one of the

1 richest census tract areas of the world, of the world.
2 Multimillion dollar homes, acreage in the Evergreen area
3 is 1.4 million an acre, and so -- and he won those
4 areas. But, it's an area that he can say that he has an
5 area that has, you know, considerable wealth, and I
6 wanted to make that point because the rest of the
7 district is very poor.

8 The presence of Cisco moving into Coyote Valley
9 and the role that Assemblyman Salinas has taken in terms
10 of mediating the difficulties there of actually settling
11 in is very critical to our view of maintaining that
12 portion of the district in the 28th Assembly District
13 because where else are farm worker children going to go
14 to work unless they actually move out of the Valley and
15 leave their families here and move to Santa Clara County
16 where housing is just absolutely absurd.

17 So, it seems to me that Mexican-American
18 families would want to keep their children and their
19 grandchildren in the area while they were able to go to
20 work in the Coyote Valley and other parts of southern
21 Santa Clara County.

22 So, I hope that in the discussion of the
23 criteria, that freeway that's going up from Salinas into
24 Santa Clara County, that that particular area is given
25 very, very serious consideration because that area

1 should not go to a non-Hispanic representative.

2 Why should a multi-billion dollar corporation
3 like Silicon be put in a non-Hispanic district, that
4 would be the epitome of racism at its worst ugly face.
5 He has it in his district now and we'd like to see some
6 serious discussion about how do you balance then the
7 geographical area with the poverty, extreme third world
8 conditions that exist in certain parts of this district
9 now.

10 I say that having testified in 1971 on
11 redistricting, the '81 redistricting plan that
12 Boatwright was part of the '91 testimony and now, so
13 it's with considerable experience that I caution this
14 Committee from just creating another Hispanic rural
15 democratic district and cutting off a real economic
16 corridor that belongs to the people of this district.

17 Those jobs should go first and foremost to the
18 poorest families of this district. That's a philosophy
19 that Cesar Chavez and others have set forth, and that I
20 represent now in the voice of LULAC and the La Raza
21 Round Table and any of a number of other organizations
22 that I belong to.

23 So, thank you for this time to put forth that
24 perspective. We do stand very firm in terms of not
25 making this another rural democratic district as so

1 indicated. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much. We
3 appreciate your taking the time to be with us today,
4 Mr. Alvarez.

5 And next up is Ms. Rebecca Garcia, and she is
6 going to be followed by Peter Szego or Szego, I'm not
7 sure, excuse my pronunciation, and the next one after
8 that will be Ron Golart.

9 And with that, Ms. Garcia, you have the
10 microphone.

11 MS. GARCIA: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, I am
12 Rebecca J. Garcia, and why I use the J. is because
13 there's four Rebecca Garcias in Santa Cruz County, I
14 want to make sure that I'm the one that you're listening
15 to.

16 I am a native of Watsonville, I'm in my third
17 term as a representative of Trustee Area 5 for Cabrillo
18 College, Trustee Area 5 is primarily the city of
19 Watsonville; I'm also the Vice Chair of the Cabrillo
20 Board.

21 I'm also a member of the State California
22 Community College Trustees Board of Directors, and in
23 fact we're having our annual conference right now at the
24 Marriott Hotel in Monterey, been there since yesterday;
25 and I'm also the Chair of the California Association of

1 Latino Community College Trustees, and I had to leave
2 our conference planning committee meeting to be here
3 because I do believe it's very important that I'm here
4 to speak to you as a member of Cabrillo College.

5 I'd like you to take this into consideration as
6 you're making your decisions about redistricting. As
7 you've heard, Cabrillo College, Community College
8 attendance area is both in the 27th and the 28th
9 Assembly Districts. We've been very well represented by
10 both Mr. Keeley and Mr. Salinas.

11 Cabrillo College student population consists of
12 22 percent Latinos. The majority of the Latinos live in
13 the city of Watsonville and they attend the Watsonville
14 Educational Center there.

15 We have been successful in meeting their needs
16 and the needs of the rest of our students throughout
17 Santa Cruz County and even San Benito County because of
18 the representation from Fred Keeley and Simon Salinas.
19 However, as a representative of Trustee Area 5, I want
20 to advocate that we remain in the 28th Assembly
21 District.

22 In relation to the community of interest, the
23 Watsonville Educational Center where the majority of
24 students are Latinos as I mentioned have similar needs
25 as the two other community colleges in the 28th

1 District, which is Gavilan Community College and
2 Hartnell Community College.

3 Some of those interests include that the
4 majority of our, my students in the educational -- in
5 the Watsonville Educational Center are Spanish speaking,
6 similar to the large Spanish speaking population in
7 Gavilan but more in Hartnell, and as a result of that
8 the type of programs and services that we offer we have
9 similar programs.

10 For example, we have a very strong English as a
11 second language program for the Spanish speaking
12 students, we have a strong early childhood educational
13 program where we provide Spanish speaking language
14 classes to our future child care providers, which again
15 is very similar to those students that attend Gavilan
16 and particularly Hartnell.

17 Most of our students in the Watsonville Center
18 come from farm worker backgrounds which are similar to
19 these two community colleges. And so as you've heard,
20 these students, our students, but these farm workers
21 have similar needs in financial aid, they have similar
22 needs in child care, similar needs in housing, and also
23 in terms of a political experiences.

24 Watsonville as you know is a single member
25 district election process where Salinas also follows

1 that process, but the rest of Santa Cruz County, none of
2 the cities in the 27th District in our county have
3 single member district elections.

4 I as a trustee can call, as a Latino trustee
5 representing the Watsonville Educational Center, I can
6 call the one trustee at Gavilan and the two trustees,
7 Latino trustees in Hartnell and say we have some similar
8 issues that we have to discuss with our representative
9 Simon Salinas.

10 However, if I was not in the 27th and -- I mean
11 in the 28th and moved to the 27th, then I'd have to meet
12 with Fred Keeley by myself, although Fred Keeley has
13 been very, very supportive of the needs and issues in
14 Watsonville.

15 So, I'm here again as I say to urge you to
16 consider leaving Watsonville in the 28th District,
17 particularly because of the Watsonville Educational
18 Center being in Watsonville area. We are being served
19 uniquely through the support of Fred Keeley and Simon
20 Salinas and would like to encourage you to continue that
21 unique support. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
23 Ms. Garcia, again for taking the time to be with us and
24 share your comments as well.

25 Next I have Mr. Peter, and I apologize, sir,

1 for, I know I've mispronounced your name, it's
2 S-z-e-g-o, and if you could pronounce, is it Szego or
3 Szego?

4 MR. SZEGO: It's Szego.

5 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Szego, okay. And let me
6 before you begin just note that after you will be
7 Mr. Ron Golart followed by Rubie Golart, and with that
8 you're up, sir.

9 MR. SZEGO: Thank you. My name as you
10 indicated is Peter Szego, I live in San Jose. Before I
11 retired I was a consultant, committee consultant for the
12 State Senate for 12 years, including a stint as chief
13 consultant for the Senate Committee on Elections and
14 Reapportionment.

15 And I just want to mention, Mr. Chairman, that
16 the Senate just like the Assembly used the naughty word
17 reapportionment in its title, still does.

18 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Yes, I know, I know.

19 MR. SZEGO: It's probably a hopeless battle.

20 I want to talk a minute about one narrow
21 special issue, namely a portion of the 23rd Assembly
22 District, which is in San Jose currently represented by
23 Assemblyman Diaz, Manny Diaz, and urge that that portion
24 at any rate not be divided because it has numerous
25 strong communities of interest in which I want to

1 mention four.

2 The portion I'm talking about is, consists of
3 Downtown San Jose and the East side of San Jose; that's
4 not all of the 23rd, but it's most of it, and that
5 combination, Downtown San Jose, East side San Jose I
6 feel should not be broken up. As far as I know there's
7 no proposal to break it up, but it's good to put these
8 ideas in the record because you don't know for sure
9 where things are going.

10 Now, why I say that. Well, first, we of course
11 are joined by the Voting Rights Act and by Court
12 decisions to make sure that minorities are neither
13 packed nor divided so that they have a good chance to
14 make their political voice felt in the political
15 process. That combination has worked well in that area,
16 exactly that has happened, it's a district with
17 substantial but not overwhelming Latino population and
18 it's worked.

19 Ten years ago as Assemblyman Leonard reminded
20 us the lines were drawn by the State Supreme Court
21 because the legislature and the Governor couldn't agree,
22 so the Court did it. And although there were no
23 hearings, Assembly Leonard, it is also true there was a
24 legal challenge afterward, and in the Court documents
25 justification was given for the lines that were drawn,

1 and this portion was looked at, among others, to show
2 that it was reasonable in terms of meeting the standard
3 as then seen, and I don't think that portion has changed
4 particularly with regard to how our racial, ethnic,
5 minority groups and what have you should be handled, so
6 that's still true today.

7 The area has not changed that drastically, it's
8 grown but so has everything else, so it's pretty much
9 the same story. So that is the strongest argument of
10 community of interest for keeping it, that portion not
11 broken up.

12 The second proof of that lies in the way that
13 the San Jose City Council districts are allocated. San
14 Jose has ten council districts; three of those lie
15 completely within that combination I just mentioned,
16 there are small fractions of another one or two, but not
17 significant.

18 It's interesting to see who represents these
19 three. One is represented by Cindy Chavez, a Latina;
20 one is represented by Nora Campos, another Latina; and
21 one is represented by George Shigawa who is an Asian
22 American; it represents the diversity of that area.

23 And the fact that right now the City is of
24 course considering redistricting its lines, it's not the
25 job of this committee but it's doing its work, and an

1 advisory group that the City set up to do that has
2 completed its tentative lines that the City has to
3 approve yet, the Council has to approve, but the
4 tentative lines pretty much keep those districts the way
5 I've described them; there's small change, but basically
6 the way. So, I think it's evidence of the community of
7 interest that exists there.

8 Next I would say that if you need emergency
9 medical services, there are two emergency rooms, one of
10 them is threatening to close it like so many in
11 California, but at the moment there are two emergency
12 rooms which service the people of that combination I
13 just mentioned and not much else. I mean it's, the
14 medical services are a unit for that area; it's another
15 proof I think of the community of interest.

16 Perhaps a less obvious, but I think still
17 significant community of interest arises from the fact
18 that there are several institutions of higher education
19 located within that area. The State University, San
20 Jose State University is one, part of the State
21 University system; the University of Santa Clara, a
22 significant private university; and much of the San Jose
23 City College portion, part of that is in the Evergreen
24 portion but the main offices and the main central part,
25 much of which is now being built up as a result of a

1 successful bond issue, is in that portion and draws
2 population from there.

3 And that sort of influences the community
4 because there's an interaction between those
5 institutions and the community, and so it makes a
6 difference in establishing a community of interest.

7 Finally, I want to mention one final point of
8 community of interest which is an area that I've never
9 heard brought up before, and maybe it isn't that
10 significant but it's kind of interesting. After I
11 retired I became active in senior groups, so I kind of
12 follow the senior community activities. That portion of
13 the 23rd that I just mentioned tends to be a place where
14 they're one of the few places where there's some
15 possibility of affordable senior housing.

16 Now, admittedly there's a huge shortage of
17 affordable housing for all ages, over all ages including
18 seniors, so it isn't that everything is rosy there
19 exactly, but there are several significant senior
20 housing complexes in that area designed for people of
21 modest income.

22 And I want to mention just three, there may be
23 more but just to give an idea, because they also
24 illustrate again the high diversity of that area. One
25 is one called Yu Ai Kai, it's three words Y-u A-i K-a-i,

1 which is an Asian-American place. Another is the United
2 Food and Commercial Workers sponsored high-rise
3 apartment house which is Downtown San Jose, 240 South
4 Market Street; the Yu Ai Kai is 588 North Fourth Street,
5 which is sort of halfway between Downtown and East side;
6 and the third is a Mexican-American Service, Community
7 Services Agency, MACSA Senior Housing, which is quite
8 substantial, integrated with all their cultural and
9 other support activities at 130 North Jackson.

10 I think that also illustrates another element
11 of community interest. There probably are many others,
12 but I will stick to those as an argument why that
13 combination, that portion of the 23rd at any rate should
14 remain inviolate. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
16 Mr. Szego, for taking the time to share your expertise
17 with us, we appreciate it.

18 Let me then go to Mr. Ron Golart I believe and
19 he will be followed by Ms. Rubie Golart, and then
20 Mr. Alan Clayton.

21 MR. GOLART: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
22 and members of the Committee. My name is Ron Golart and
23 I live in the 23rd Assembly District. I'm also the Vice
24 President of the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Association
25 from East San Jose, and I also am here to encourage you

1 to keep downtown San Jose and the East San Jose in the
2 23rd District and don't divide East San Jose in any way.

3 You know, the redistricting committee saw fit
4 to, you know, or the City Council district saw fit to
5 keep the boundaries within basically the same limits
6 that we have right at the present time. This reflects
7 the belief that these lines meet the test of the
8 community interests.

9 Keeping these areas together on the East side,
10 especially in our area there where I live is, we have
11 several different community associations and we all try
12 to work together to better our area. And if we're split
13 up in any way, it's going to affect the way that we can
14 communicate with each other, communicate with the City.
15 If you keep us all together in the same district, we can
16 work on two different levels of government, also with
17 the City Council and the State Assembly.

18 At the present time we've gone through quite a
19 deal with the new City Council districts, and they've
20 come around to the way that we're thinking that we can
21 keep our community one solid community. We have, you
22 know, we're right out at the end of the district, and if
23 there's going to be any changes it might very well be
24 there, and we would just like to keep all of our
25 community in one Assembly district.

1 We have a large Latino community in the area,
2 and not only that, we have quite a large Asian
3 community, and at the present time everybody's working
4 well together and we would like to keep it that way.
5 So, I'd like to thank you for your time.

6 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much, sir,
7 for taking the time to come here today.

8 And just by an amazing coincidence, the next
9 person to testify is also named Golart, Ms. Rubie
10 Golart, and also wearing one of the same shirts, that's
11 true, just a, will the coincidences not end.

12 MS. GOLART: Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: And, Ms. Golart, before I
14 have you begin, let me just note that Mr. Alan Clayton
15 will be up next, and following him Ms.-- let's see, I'm
16 sorry, it looks like, I believe it's Juan Sanchez I
17 believe, yes.

18 And the microphone is yours, Ms. Golart.

19 MS. GOLART: My name is Rubie Golart, and I'm
20 not a big shot, I'm a little guy as you can see, but --

21 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Ms. Golart, could you take
22 and bend that microphone thing down there, it will pick
23 you up a little better, thank you.

24 MS. GOLART: Is that better?

25 I've lived in the East side for 40 years, and I

1 want you to know that I've worked all my life in the
2 East side until about, oh, 15 years ago, and then about
3 seven years ago I decided to see what I could do to make
4 my neighborhood a little bit better because we were in
5 pretty bad shape I'll tell you.

6 But we got acquainted with our City Councilman
7 who happened to be Manny Diaz and he helped us out a
8 lot. He worked with us through the City and he got us a
9 building put on our school, on our school property that
10 we could use for our seniors, for our neighborhood
11 meetings, and it's just worked out wonderful for us; and
12 now he is up there sitting with you, and we helped put
13 him there and I'm proud to say that.

14 Now we're working with his Chief of Staff, Nora
15 Campos from the City Council, and she's going to be
16 helping us to improve our area even more.

17 But I'm just here to tell you that we are
18 really going great guns over there on the East side, and
19 for 40 years I've lived in the East side. Anyone asked
20 me where I lived it was East San Jose, and I'm very
21 proud of San Jose as a town, as a city. I love the
22 history of San Jose, and I just ask that you keep
23 Downtown and East side all together. Thank you very
24 much.

25 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,

1 Ms. Golart, for taking the time to be with us today as
2 well.

3 And next we have a gentleman who those of us on
4 the Committee have gotten to know, Mr. Alan Clayton.
5 And, Mr. Clayton, before you begin, let me just again
6 note the next person after Mr. Clayton will be Mr. Juan
7 Sanchez followed by Ms. Linda Hermann.

8 And with that, Mr. Clayton, you have the
9 microphone.

10 MR. CLAYTON: Thank you, Chairperson Longville,
11 and other members. My name is Alan Clayton, I have
12 testified before the Committee before. Back in 1991 I
13 was involved in the process from the start to the
14 finish, including sitting there listening to the State
15 Supreme Court hear the testimony.

16 And just one thing I would want to bring up,
17 the Special Masters had six days of public hearings, I
18 know, I attended and listened. And they, what they did
19 was they had six days of public hearings, I remember one
20 was in San Diego, one was in Los Angeles; and they also
21 reviewed, just for the record, the 12 -- the transcripts
22 of the 12 hearings that were held by the Senate, and
23 they reviewed the 22 plans that were submitted.

24 The reason I'm familiar is because I was
25 involved in that process, and basically during that

1 period of time went part time so I could be involved in
2 the redistricting process from the start to the finish,
3 and worked with a lot of different organizations, and
4 also I testified before the legislature, and actually I
5 was the final witness before the Joint Committee on the
6 overall plan that was presented, it was Assembly Plan A,
7 B and C, the Democratic Congressional Plan, the Senate
8 Plan, and I also was involved in doing an analysis of
9 the plan submitted by Governor Wilson, and then there
10 was a later plan that came in by the Assembly
11 Republicans, so I'm very familiar with the process.

12 In '91 there were a lot of concerns that we
13 raised through the process dealing with the issues of
14 having access to data to ensure that the process was
15 fair. As I've testified previously, concerns that I
16 have, having been doing redistricting for 14 years, is
17 that once the plan comes out -- and there will be plans
18 coming out -- that we have adequate notice and adequate
19 time to analyze those plans.

20 And I have testified before the Committee, both
21 the Senate and the Assembly Elections, Reapportionment
22 Committee on that. I think that adequate notice and
23 adequate time, I'm I think pretty fast at analyzing
24 plans, but you need at least I would say two weeks to
25 really go through and analyze, because you're dealing

1 with the Board of Equalization, the Senate, Assembly and
2 Congressional plans, and you're also dealing with other
3 plans that have come in; if you want to do an adequate
4 job, it's a lot of work.

5 I spent the last three weeks basically buried
6 in a computer room doing just L.A. redistricting and
7 L.A. County, so it is just tremendous amount of work,
8 especially with the Court decisions that have come down
9 on how you draw lines where you cannot use race in a
10 predominant factor, you have to consider socioeconomic,
11 geographic compactness, contiguousness, respecting
12 geographic areas.

13 Couple issues that I did want to bring up, and
14 I brought up in other hearings, I will continue to bring
15 them up throughout the process, I do have a concern
16 about one of the criteria that I brought up before the
17 Committee and I brought it up in San Diego, is voter
18 deferral, I don't know why that's in there.

19 I did inquire -- actually I had raised that
20 issue before the Senate Elections and Reapportionment
21 Committee as one of the three issues, and I was told by
22 the Chair that they were just using it for data
23 collection, and it's on the record, and that was what I
24 was told.

25 So, again the concern that I raise is if

1 Elections and Reapportionment on the Senate side did not
2 feel that that was mandated in order to not have a
3 successful legal challenge, I found nothing in the
4 Special Masters where they required it in '91, and I
5 reviewed and read the report again, I didn't find
6 anything.

7 That was reviewed by the State Supreme Court, I
8 didn't see them noting it as a deficiency and I didn't
9 see the three judge panel in Federal Court in response
10 to a Fourteenth Amendment challenge also noting that.

11 So, again I rise that issue as to why is it
12 there. If you want to collect data, that's fine, but I
13 don't want to see something used co-equally with
14 communities of interest, and I've stated that for the
15 record, I still have that concern.

16 The other issues, one issue came up that I've
17 not had a chance to comment on publicly, and I'm glad to
18 be able to comment on it today. It came to my knowledge
19 that there was a, discussions going on and looking at
20 the possibility of filing a lawsuit to basically take
21 Section 5 out.

22 Now, I regard that as somebody who's been
23 involved in redistricting as something that is obscene.
24 I have commented on it to a number of people, and just
25 for the record when -- there was an article in the

1 Sacramento Bee by Dan Walters, and I did call Dan
2 Walters and I did give him the information and I'm glad
3 that he did inquire, and he said that what was going
4 on -- and you might want to refer to it and even people
5 in the audience because I think that we have to be very
6 careful to protect our civil rights.

7 And my comments were the democratic leadership,
8 looking at that I think that it was a very unfortunate,
9 and I hope -- according to the column, after the
10 complaints they're not doing it now. I hope it doesn't
11 rear back and sneak in because we're going to be
12 watching for that.

13 Especially it's relevant in Monterey County
14 with the issues of discrimination and the role Section 5
15 has had protecting the rights of minorities, and it
16 protects the rights of all minorities, and that
17 amendment, that regulation happened because blood was
18 shed in the Civil Rights Movement, and I think to talk
19 about in any way, shape or form taking away something
20 that was fought for in the streets, fought for in
21 Congress, and was a tremendous boon to minorities
22 throughout the United States is something that should
23 not be tolerated, and anyone who believes in civil
24 rights should condemn any attempt to do that, and I'm
25 glad to hear that issue bought up by many of the

1 speakers today because this is an area that knows why
2 Section 5 is important.

3 A couple other issues that I wanted to raise
4 for the Committee, in dealing with the voting rights,
5 one of the issues that was raised back in 1991
6 appropriately by the Special Masters was where there
7 were minority communities, even if they didn't fit the
8 criteria of the Section 2, those areas should not be
9 fragmented, there should be every attempt to keep those
10 areas together, and I have raised this before both the
11 Assembly and the Senate Committee in asking them to look
12 at as part of the process, and the Chair knows this
13 because I've raised it I think in a forceful manner, as
14 part of the process that we look at those criteria
15 because I think those criteria were shaped to be
16 inclusionary to bring minority groups into the political
17 process in an equitable manner.

18 The Court I think -- well, actually the three
19 Masters because of all the testimony, and I can tell you
20 one of the reasons I believe the Masters drew a plan
21 that did change the face of California, did keep
22 together minority communities that were previously
23 fragmented, was because of the participation of the
24 public.

25 I know around California, because I've worked

1 with a lot of community organizations, there was
2 tremendous interest and tremendous testimony, and I'll
3 give you one example; for example, we had an area that
4 was fragmented three different ways, it's now a district
5 and it happens to be one of the strongest districts in
6 the state for the Latino community, it lies in Southeast
7 Los Angeles, and there are other stories like that
8 throughout California.

9 What I'm hoping I don't see is a repeat of
10 Assembly A, B and C plan in '91 that I went after, and
11 the reason I went after it was because they fragmented
12 the Latino community throughout California, and we went
13 from four individuals in the community up to 16
14 Democrats and four Republicans, currently we have 15,
15 and that was because of a number of factors, but one of
16 the factors is the plan did not fragment the Latino
17 community.

18 So, we wish and hope that there will be no
19 attempt to deprive the Latino community or other
20 communities, the African-American community, the Asian
21 community, by fragmenting their cohesive communities.

22 And I'm going to be watching very carefully for
23 districts such as this district, the 28th, the 23rd and
24 other districts where the Courts said there were
25 cohesive communities, and to see if there's any attempt

1 to go around the edges or move in and cut up the core of
2 those communities, because my belief it would be a
3 violation of the Voting Rights Act, and in this county
4 it would be a violation of both Section 5 and Section 2.

5 The other issue that was raised that I wanted
6 to comment on was the issue dealing with data. I am
7 familiar with the OJ regulations, and we're going to be
8 watching very carefully any attempt in data to undercut
9 or undermine the Latino community. And if I see one, I
10 can guarantee you my association will do what we believe
11 is necessary to deal with that in a forceful matter by
12 filing with the Department of Justice in the counties
13 where if you change the criteria, you can go in and
14 file.

15 So, we're going to be watching carefully, I
16 just want to give you a caution to think very carefully,
17 if anything comes up in the criteria to dilute the
18 Latino community, dilute our ability to participate in
19 the process because just like in '91, redistricting in
20 the Latino community is the way that you change the
21 process to open up opportunities to communities that
22 have been politically disenfranchised in the past and
23 continue in many areas to be politically
24 disenfranchised.

25 So, I look forward to testifying in the future.

1 I do hope the Committee when we get down to the filing
2 of the plans gives us the appropriate amount of time so
3 we can do an analysis of the plans, and I hope they take
4 into view the consideration of maintaining communities
5 of interest, but especially do not fragment any cohesive
6 minority communities.

7 And also, where demographics have changed and
8 there are opportunities where we can show that there's
9 minority communities that have developed because of a
10 variety of issues over the last ten years that they
11 instead of using -- sorry, there's a fly flying in front
12 of me -- instead of using partisan data and going
13 partisan first, they look at that as an opportunity not
14 to split up those new communities that have arisen over
15 the last ten years. And there's areas in California
16 that we know that that is happening.

17 In Los Angeles I'm going to talk about the
18 issue that the Chairperson raised in a letter about the
19 650,000, I do have some ideas. I do not obviously want
20 to see any voting rights district collapsed, and we're
21 going to be watching very carefully on that one, so
22 we're going to be watching to make sure in that 650,000
23 in our community where I come from in Los Angeles, and I
24 will be testifying around the state on the statewide
25 plans, that there is no attempt to collapse a Section 2

1 district.

2 Thank you very much for your time. I
3 appreciate it.

4 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
5 Mr. Clayton, for coming. And, Mr. Leonard, in just a
6 moment -- let me, would you let me just first thank you,
7 Mr. Clayton, for correcting us on the information on the
8 hearings ten years ago the Court held.

9 Candidly in our first hearing in San Diego you
10 may recall how many people were upset at a particular
11 neighborhood that had been split, and we had the
12 impression --

13 MR. LEONARD: That's what I want to speak to.

14 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: -- that it hadn't
15 apparently been considered by the Court. Mr. Leonard,
16 go right ahead.

17 MR. LEONARD: Well, that was my point, I was
18 involved in the process too, the Masters hearings. The
19 Masters hearings were like we're doing today, before a
20 plan was drawn listening to input. After the plan was
21 released, the hearing was a legalistic hearing as to
22 whether or not the plan drafted by the Supreme Court was
23 subject to any Federal or State Constitutional or
24 statutory legal challenges.

25 They did not go back around the state, they did

1 not give the kind of weeks -- and I want to underscore
2 Mr. Clayton's request for weeks period to review the
3 plans published by the legislature because that's what
4 the Supreme Court didn't do, as good a job as they did
5 do and I commend, they still made mistakes or may not
6 have had all the data available to them.

7 And the same way for us, that while we do
8 everything possible to gather input ahead of time,
9 there's no substitute for having the plans made
10 available to the public for enough time that at least
11 experts like Mr. Clayton and others who spend time at
12 this can have a minimal period of time of access to the
13 plans and able to analyze and review them and comment
14 back to us, or we run the same kind of risk. So, there
15 was one part of the process but there wasn't the other
16 part of the process.

17 Mr. Chairman, I also wanted to raise two points
18 Mr. Clayton raised, where do we stand on vote deferral?
19 Are we now consistent with the Senate that will
20 calculate the number of Senate districts where voters
21 are deferred for informational purposes or is it to be a
22 criteria in our map drawing that we will minimize vote
23 deferral, even at the risk of not reuniting communities
24 of interest that have been divided? At some point we've
25 got to resolve that point.

1 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Clearly that is, and I
2 think although today's meeting is scheduled just for
3 taking input and we don't actually have a quorum, the
4 next meeting at which we do have a quorum I think that's
5 going to be one of the subjects we'll put on our agenda.

6 MR. LEONARD: And the second one I'd ask to be
7 put on the agenda is I think we ought to end once and
8 for all any of the rumors that anybody associated with
9 California State Government might file a suit with the
10 Department of Justice to remove the Section 5 sanctions
11 in the state of California; that would be wrong.

12 We are still working our way through in making
13 sure communities of interest are well represented. I'm
14 hopeful we'll do a better job than the past that's been
15 done, but it's way premature for us to go to the federal
16 government and say we don't need your oversight.

17 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: And I appreciate your
18 noting that also, Mr. Leonard. I can tell you that we
19 are not intending to do that as this Committee. Thank
20 you very much.

21 We have next Mr. Juan Sanchez and, Mr. Sanchez,
22 after you will be Ms. Linda Hermann followed by Mr. Greg
23 Sellers. Thank you.

24 MR. SANCHEZ: Thank you. Good afternoon,
25 Mr. Chairperson, and Committee members. I'm going to

1 keep it short, I'm not going to plow over the same
2 ground a lot of my colleagues have already spoken about
3 very eloquently, but I just want to just kind of make a
4 couple of points.

5 I am a resident of Salinas, been a resident of
6 Salinas for 20 years. I'm presently on the Planning
7 Commission of Monterey County, past President of the
8 Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Monterey County.

9 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Mr. Sanchez, could you
10 speak a little closer into the mike perhaps.

11 MR. SANCHEZ: Okay. And also a past Vice
12 President of LULAC here in Monterey County.

13 Basically I'm not an expert, I see myself as a
14 practitioner. I have enjoyed working on campaigns
15 electing good people, Latino and non-Latinos who are
16 responsive to the Latino community in the last 30 years.

17 In the 1980s here in Salinas I participated on
18 three or four failed local elections. I once read that
19 the definition of insanity was to keep repeating the
20 same behavior expecting different outcomes. Well, we
21 stopped the insanity in the 1980s. We said, you know,
22 we can't keep repeating this, we need to change the
23 rules.

24 And as Mr. Armenta alluded to, he was one of
25 the plaintiffs, we -- Latinos in Monterey County filed,

1 filed suit, so I'm not here to advocate any specific
2 district lines or any specific communities of interest
3 at this point, I'm going to react later. As we learn,
4 as we Latinos learned in Monterey County, it's not over
5 until the fat judge rules.

6 And so basically what I want to allude to is,
7 and I was glad to hear Mr. Leonard say that they're not
8 contemplating any change or deleting Section 5 from the
9 Voter Rights Act, because I believe that the rules that
10 eventually were reached in 1991 were very viable for us
11 here in Monterey County in terms of keeping the
12 communities of interest intact.

13 And also -- and of course the outcomes speak
14 for themselves; we now have four out of seven Council
15 members in the City of Salinas, we have a Latino
16 Supervisor on Monterey County; we're looking forward to
17 the next decade to mentoring and corroborating with our
18 Latino colleagues in Marina, Seaside, Monterey, Soledad,
19 Gonzales, and just keep spreading the good cheer and
20 keep electing Latino candidates.

21 So, we understand the rules now and all we want
22 is a level playing field and I believe we have that, so
23 again I just want to kind of finish up by saying keep
24 Title 5, Title 2 intact, and let us just play on a level
25 playing field. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
2 Mr. Sanchez, for taking the time to come here today as
3 well.

4 And, ladies and gentlemen, we're getting to the
5 last three requests that I have. We will have next
6 Ms. Hermann, followed by Mr. Greg Sellers, followed by
7 Mr. Sergio Sanchez.

8 MS. HERMANN: Hello, Mr. Chairman, and
9 Committee members. My name is Linda Hermann, and I'm in
10 the, from the Berryessa area of San Jose, and that's in
11 the northeast part of San Jose. I'm a school board
12 member there and also very active in, I've been
13 President of my, Berryessa's Citizens Advisory Council.

14 I'm here today representing two different
15 groups, although I always have in mind the schools and
16 what's happening there, and it's kind of like a little
17 complex here and I have a map on the third page, but let
18 me sort of go through the first two pages first.

19 The Berryessa Community Center Advisory Council
20 wanted me to come as a representative, and we're really
21 talking here about Congressional districts more so than
22 Senate or Assembly district, although I have a little
23 point to make about that in a minute.

24 The -- in the redistricting, what we would like
25 to see is, the Congressional district right now if

1 you'll look over on the map page, there's a little
2 section there and it's part of Berryessa and then you
3 have Milpitas that begins in Landess, and that's kind of
4 the line there, and we would like to see, right now that
5 little section that I circled is a part of Berryessa but
6 it's just -- it has not been included in the
7 Congressional district and that makes it really
8 difficult for representation, it's sort of neglected and
9 we would like to bring it back into the Berryessa area.

10 Also, there are some other things that I would
11 like you to note when you look at the Assembly and the
12 Senate redistricting too, because you'll find, we find
13 often that we'll have meetings and invite
14 representatives, and it's been known that,
15 representatives have even said they didn't even, weren't
16 even aware that Berryessa, you know, was a part of their
17 Assembly, and I won't name any names, or Senate
18 District.

19 Every time this one now Senator comes, we
20 always rub it in her face and remind her, but you didn't
21 even know that Berryessa was part of your Assembly
22 district, so we have a real problem in that area. I'm
23 not sure why it was set up that way, although it is a
24 community of interest in the sense that Berryessa people
25 do identify very strongly with Berryessa -- oops, I

1 better slow down, okay.

2 But, and there is a large Asian community
3 there, but I don't think we're really cutting off an
4 Asian community from an Asian part of the community if
5 you look at it, you'll see that there's enough of still
6 the same representation going on.

7 Another possibility if you wanted to enlarge or
8 to move the boundary down for Congressional District 16
9 would be move it all the way to Calaveras and include
10 Milpitas, which is also very much of a community of
11 interest with Berryessa, Berryessa and Milpitas are very
12 closely associated; so that would also work if you're
13 trying to think of different ways.

14 You would have to cut off some people possibly
15 at the other end, you know, when you're looking at
16 Congressional District 16 I know there has to be a
17 cutting and where would that cutting happen, I
18 understand that, and so possibly maybe going towards the
19 south, that might work out a better, better
20 proportionally, and including possibly all the way over
21 till Calaveras Boulevard possibly, but for sure Landess.

22 One of the problems that we did -- we have also
23 found with the Congressional district is that we do have
24 very few that our -- that Congressman Pete Stark seems
25 to not be aware that we do exist, and so he never comes

1 to any meetings so we have had a problem with that as
2 well, where we have had much better representation, and
3 I think it's because Berryessa is part of San Jose, and
4 I think Zoe Lofgren who is part of the Congressional
5 District 16th sees us, you know, and includes us because
6 she sees us as part of San Jose, but there is a small
7 tip of it that is being excluded by Congressman Pete
8 Stark, so I think it is, just makes more sense to bring
9 it back in.

10 One other problem we had is, I don't know why,
11 now maybe it was only the San Jose in the Berryessa
12 area, but we received, all of us received notices about
13 the meeting in San Francisco on the 19th, you know, that
14 was held on the 18th, and so we weren't sure if that
15 happened in all of San Jose because of course more
16 people could get to San Francisco.

17 I would have found it easier to go to San
18 Francisco than to come to Monterey this morning, and I
19 was all ready, I would have immediately, and many of my
20 friends would have been there, so there's many people
21 missing from Berryessa in San Jose who would have been
22 there and so, because they didn't want to come down to
23 Monterey.

24 All right. I guess that was the main, I've
25 given you a letter as well that you can read over to

1 see, I think I've covered most everything, so thank you
2 very much.

3 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
4 Ms. Hermann, we appreciate it. And let me just note for
5 your benefit and for any others who may be interested
6 what some of the remaining hearings still are. This
7 Committee will still be holding an additional hearing, a
8 set of hearings, we have one scheduled next week on
9 Friday in Los Angeles, one on June 22nd in Sacramento,
10 on July 6th in San Bernardino, and on July 13th in
11 Orange County.

12 In addition to that, the Senate Committee,
13 which is our equivalent body in the other House, is
14 holding hearings as well. They have a hearing coming up
15 on June 26th in San Diego, July 17th in Los Angeles, on
16 July 31st in Sacramento; and perhaps of most importance
17 to you for those who may not have been able to make
18 another hearing, they are going to be holding on July
19 24th a hearing in San Jose, so you'll have another
20 opportunity since both committees will look at one
21 another's transcripts and testimony, we will be
22 reviewing the Senate Committee's, they'll be reviewing
23 ours.

24 If you've been unable to make another hearing
25 or you have friends who you'd like to have make it, let

1 me note that in San Jose on July 24th from 1:00 until
2 5:00 in the afternoon, the Senate Committee will be
3 holding a hearing at the State Office Building in the
4 auditorium there which is at 100 Paseo De San Antonio in
5 San Jose.

6 And if you weren't able to get that down and
7 it's of interest to you, the information is also
8 available I believe outside, yes, in the tables outside,
9 this is along the information on the printed material,
10 so we welcome, again we also welcome your input at the
11 Web site or by mail, and those addresses again are in
12 the information that's being distributed. And we very
13 much eagerly ask you to give us information, this is
14 very helpful to us.

15 Our last two, I have Mr. Greg Sellers coming up
16 and then, and the Honorable Greg Sellers, Morgan Hill
17 City Council Member Greg Sellers, followed by Mr. Sergio
18 Sanchez, and I want to note now if there's anyone else
19 who has asked to speak or filled out one of these forms
20 that I haven't recognized, please bring it up here or
21 come talk to one of the staff people, as these are the
22 only two names I have left.

23 Council Member Sellers, thank you, and you have
24 the microphone.

25 MR. SELLERS: Thank you, Chairman Longville,

1 Assembly Member Leonard, I appreciate the opportunity to
2 address you today. I'm someone who has been long active
3 in politics in this region and proud to say I'm a member
4 of the 28th Assembly District, and currently part of
5 Assembly Member Salinas' district.

6 I wanted to add my voice to those who have
7 urged you to maintain the communities of interest that
8 exist in Watsonville and in the, throughout the southern
9 and major portion of the 28th Assembly District.

10 I primarily wanted to talk to you today about
11 the northern part of that District. Saying that we want
12 to include and keep Watsonville as part of the 28th does
13 not address a significant problem that you all will be
14 facing, namely that you're going to have to reduce the
15 size of the 28th. I think that's appropriate given that
16 it's one of the largest in terms of land mass districts
17 in the state and is very difficult to represent, if only
18 geographically.

19 The northern part of the district, it includes
20 as you know four counties, Santa Cruz, San Benito, all
21 of San Benito, most, a good part of Monterey, and the
22 southern section of Santa Clara County; which in
23 1990-91, the Santa Clara County portion of the 28th A.D.
24 was about 30, 35 percent of the district, it grew to a
25 little over 40 percent in the last ten years, so it's

1 become a sizable percentage of the overall base.

2 And the reason I bring that up is that it
3 becomes obvious for two reasons; that it needs to, that
4 that area of the district is probably where we need to
5 look at removing and reducing.

6 As, and my own personal feelings aside, I feel
7 we're very well represented by Assembly Member Salinas,
8 but in looking at the demographics of the region I
9 wanted to point out a couple of things that should
10 assist in your effort.

11 I want to respectfully disagree to some degree
12 with my dear friend Mr. Alvarez in talking about the
13 Evergreen community part of the district, I think there
14 is a similarity demographically, economically, and
15 certainly geographically with the 23rd Assembly
16 District.

17 And though I would concur with those who spoke
18 in wanting to maintain the Downtown and East side
19 portions and keep those in one contiguous district, I
20 think to agree to it you can incorporate some of that
21 Evergreen area, that would make more sense.

22 And then in regards to my own hometown, Morgan
23 Hill, we are used to being the, kind of the last
24 considered. In the eighties we were represented by Tom
25 Campbell who went all the way up to San Mateo County as

1 our Congressional, and yet Rusty Arias who went well
2 south of us in the Assembly side, and so we're used to
3 having this division.

4 This case, there are two, I think, options for
5 our general area in terms of if we're going to move out
6 of the 28th Assembly District, either the 24th Assembly
7 District which has significant demographic and economic
8 ties and/or the 27th Assembly District, which although
9 we are not a coastside community, I think there are
10 significant demographic ties.

11 As you may know, the University of California
12 Santa Cruz, my alma mater, represents the Silicon Valley
13 area as part of their extended region and is very
14 actively involved in their extension program. There are
15 a variety of other ties that the Santa Cruz region has
16 to our region.

17 And lastly I want to point out, although we
18 have always been tied in with the Gilroy community for a
19 variety of reasons, we're both at the southern end of
20 Santa Clara County, there's some significant demographic
21 differences between our communities. And the Gilroy
22 community to the degree that you can leave it in the
23 28th District, I think that makes more sense than my own
24 community.

25 So I said putting aside my personal interests,

1 I urge you to consider some of these thoughts in putting
2 that together and in undertaking the very important and
3 somewhat difficult tasks in the months ahead. Thank
4 you.

5 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you very much,
6 Council Member, we appreciate it.

7 Next I have Mr. Sergio Sanchez, and I have no
8 other forms that have been filled in after that.

9 Mr. Sanchez, the microphone is yours.

10 MR. SANCHEZ: Thank you, and I don't want to
11 sound redundant, especially after Mr. Leonard talked
12 about the State Government not pursuing doing away with
13 Section 5 because that's what specifically I want to
14 talk to you about, but I think I need to say it just to
15 reaffirm our opposition to ever even thinking of that.

16 My name is Sergio Sanchez, I am the District
17 Director of the League of United Latin American
18 Citizens, District 12 serving the Counties of San
19 Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.
20 I've been a resident of Salinas for about five years.

21 I originally came from Fresno where I lived for
22 15 years where they're not lucky enough to have a
23 Section 5. And in living in this community only five
24 years, I have embraced it as my own, I feel that I have
25 lived here all my life because this is a community where

1 I have seen communities and folks elect people that look
2 like them and talk like them and can fairly represent
3 them.

4 I'm also a member of the Monterey County
5 Redistricting Committee. I was appointed by
6 Mr., Supervisor Fernando Armenta, and I'm not speaking
7 in that authority, but I can tell you as a member of
8 that committee if Section 5 was not around, we would be
9 having very different conversations in regards to how
10 they're going to redraw lines, and that Section 5 keeps
11 popping up and that's probably the only tool I have out
12 there to defend the voting rights of minorities, having
13 two districts that have become super majorities having a
14 great majority of its residents being Latinos.

15 Like I said, when I lived in Fresno for many
16 years I, still to this day there's, the people that are
17 representatives of the communities do not look like the
18 people that live in these communities because they do
19 not have the privilege of Section 5.

20 Here in this county I can tell you because of
21 Section 5 and redistricting in district elections that a
22 lot of people put into effort such as Juaquin Avila,
23 Simon Salinas, Fernando Armenta, Jesse Sanchez, Ernesto
24 Gonzales, Juan Olivarez and many others that have come
25 to become elected officials due to district elections,

1 including a judge that we elected from the East side of
2 Salinas, the poor side of Monterey County, elected a
3 judge, a Municipal Judge and now is a Superior Court
4 Judge.

5 Having said that, I just want to tell you that
6 that brought the first Latino to be elected to City
7 Council. Ten years ago most of the City Councils and
8 School Boards were governed by mostly male, Anglo,
9 Republican gentlemen, so now that has changed most of
10 them, some of them are majority of women, Latino women
11 and Latino males. And I'm very happy and proud of that,
12 and I know that a lot of people put a lot of effort to
13 accomplish that.

14 And it also brought up the first Latino to a
15 City Council being Simon Salinas, the first Supervisor
16 to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in over a
17 hundred years on both of them, and also the first Latino
18 to the Assembly. It was followed now by Fernando
19 Armenta being the Supervisor, the second Latino in over
20 a hundred and something years.

21 So that goes to tell you that we need Section
22 5. I want to ask that you continue to protect our right
23 to elect candidates of our choice that will fairly
24 represent the people that live in those communities.

25 I ask you that you continue to protect our

1 right to not have changes that will make to change the
2 current voting practices or loss that could
3 disenfranchise or discriminate against minorities in our
4 community. Please leave Section 5 alone. I know you
5 are working on it, but I just want to reaffirm that.
6 Thank you for your time and have a nice day.

7 CHAIRMAN LONGVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Sanchez, we
8 appreciate your coming in.

9 I would note that the Section 5 process does
10 require preclearance procedures which will take into,
11 will take a little bit of the time that could otherwise
12 be available to review the plans at other levels, but I
13 think it's been clear that this Committee is intending
14 to respect those requirements, regardless of the fact
15 that it does diminish the amount of time available in
16 the process, but we are committed to that. Thank you
17 for coming here today.

18 And, ladies and gentlemen, I want to make sure,
19 were there any other persons who had handed in slips? I
20 want to make sure I didn't miss any. As I indicated,
21 the information is available on our Web site as well,
22 these hearings, the testimony you gave today will be
23 added eventually onto that Web site.

24 If you go to the Web site today, you'll find
25 transcripts of some of the other hearings that we've

1 held, this one will be added to it as we get it into
2 that shape.

3 And again thank you for taking the time to be
4 here, we know that it takes your time. We appreciate
5 the fact that you're not paid to be here, that you came
6 here as good citizens to try and participate in the
7 process, and we very much appreciate your taking that
8 time out of your lives to help us do this job. Thank
9 you again, and this hearing is adjourned.

10 (Whereupon, the hearing was
11 adjourned at 1:27 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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5 I, JAN LIGUORI HERNANDEZ, a Certified Shorthand
6 Reporter, hereby certify that the witness in the
7 foregoing public hearing was taken down in shorthand by
8 me, a disinterested person, at the time and place
9 therein stated, and that the testimony of the said
10 public hearing was thereafter reduced to typewriting, by
11 computer, under my direction and supervision;

12 I further certify that I am not of counsel or
13 attorney for either or any of the parties to the said
14 public hearing, nor in any way interested in the event
15 of this cause, and that I am not related to any of the
16 parties thereto.

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18 Dated: , 2001.

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JAN LIGUORI HERNANDEZ, CSR 6703

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